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EUROPE 45

Roger Boulton
offers advice
on EMU

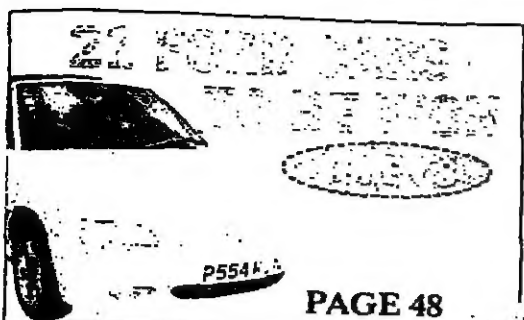
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GERMAINE GREER

The piece the booksellers tried to ban

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CAN WE WIN AT TENNIS TOO?

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LADIES WHO LUNCH

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Fears of EMU collapse hit markets

France seeks time to think again on euro

By CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

FRANCE created new doubts over monetary union yesterday after openly clashing with Germany about rules governing how a single European currency should be run.

The Socialist Government's refusal to accept the agreed "stability pact" imposing budgetary disciplines on countries that adopt the euro created jitters on stock markets across the continent and raised fresh concerns for the European summit in Amsterdam on Monday.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the Finance Minister, insisted that France was "absolutely determined" to go ahead with the single currency in 1999 and said he was simply seeking time for reflection. But his Government's refusal to endorse the stability pact until after it had put its programme to Parliament on Friday week led to suspicions that the entire single currency was on the verge of collapse.

All the main stock markets, apart from London, suffered sharp falls, and the mark rose against the franc, dollar and pound, regaining some of the ground it had lost amid fears that Europe was heading for a "soft" single currency.

M. Strauss-Kahn's stance also raised the stakes for the summit in Amsterdam, where a new treaty on Europe's future is due to be approved. In return for a compromise on the stability pact, France is expected to seek strong language in the treaty's employment chapter and curb on the primacy of the future European central bank. Germany,

There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag?

—Peter Riddell, page 12

Kohl plan 15
Jittery markets 27

the driving force behind the stability pact last December, is resisting pressure for a clause promising EU funds to stimulate employment.

Dutch officials preparing to host the summit were appalled at the uncertainty created by France. One diplomat said: "We always thought the British would be the problem. We never dreamed the French would bring the misery."

He spoke after M. Strauss-Kahn had told finance ministers: "We are not seeking to renegotiate the stability pact, but we cannot approve it today." The Government wanted time to review the pact and to find ways of "accompanying it" with undertakings to co-ordinate economic policies to promote growth. "In no country does the central bank operate in a political vacuum," he said.

The suspension of the accord concluded by President Chirac, Helmut Kohl, John Major and the other 12 leaders last December reopens the painful quarrel between German demands for a monetary union based on continuous

fiscal austerity and other states' desire for more political leeway. Most other ministers voiced understanding for the need of Lionel Jospin's government to review the commitments it inherited, but they were adamant that the stability pact could not be renegotiated.

"What has been agreed upon and discussed for two years can no longer be put up for negotiation," Theo Waigel of Germany said. He added that there would be no change in Germany's policy of requiring strict adherence to the Maastricht rules — but his authority to preach on the subject has been undermined by his attempt to top up Bonn's budget by revaluing Germany's gold reserves.

Diplomats suggested last night, however, that French demands would be appeased by adding more about the co-ordination of economic policies to the stability pact. That, along with the new employment chapter in the Union Treaty, would enable France to say that it had fulfilled its promise to create an "economic government" to accompany the monetary administration of the single currency by the European Central Bank.

Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, will set out for Paris and other capitals tomorrow in an attempt to produce a package before the summit, but diplomats were not optimistic that he could succeed, given France's promised silence until June 19.



Peter Lilley and wife Gail greet would-be supporters at his party yesterday

Tory hopefuls woo backers with canapés and crisps

By ANDREW PIERCE AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Tory leadership contenders launched their final pitch for support last night over champagne and canapés.

William Hague, who has pledged to reduce the average age of the Tory activist from 64 to 32, chose the Carlton Club in St James's, a bastion of old Toryism. The average age of the membership is closer to 70 than 30.

Women MPs were not amused as they are admitted only as associate members. Margaret Thatcher, whose support Mr Hague tried and failed to secure, is still the only exception. "They can do anything but vote in the management of the club's affairs," said one bewildered official who was wearing a hearing aid.

Mr Hague, flanked by his fiancée Pfiou Jenkins, entertained guests, who included a clutch of new MPs, under glittering chandeliers behind oak panelled closed doors of the coffee room.

But the real excitement was outside. A group of Streatham Young Conservatives, dressed in traditional Mexican bandolero costume, picked the entrance. They wielded posters proclaiming: "Partido el Presidente".

Peter Lilley, by contrast, opened up the gardens of the St Stephen's Club in Queen Anne's Gate, close to the Home Office, which was once the fiefdom of his arch rival, Michael Howard, who was entertaining around the corner.

Mr Lilley, stung by reports that his was to be a downmarket cheese-and-wine affair, ordered in supplies of Cockburn and Campbell champagne at £22 a bottle.

His wife, Gail, was unimpressed by it all. "I am a



"It's my fifth cocktail party and now I can't even remember the candidates' names"

bohemian artist. My career may even flourish. I have already had an expression of interest in commissions for red boxes even though I am a still-life artist, which you should not confuse for the current state of the Tory Party," she said.

One of the most upmarket affairs was at No 8 Lord North Street, once a favourite den of intrigue of Winston Churchill, which is the Michael Howard campaign headquarters.

First to arrive was Lord Hanson, the Tory-supporting businessman, who paid for Mr Howard's party and drew up in his maroon Rolls-Royce with his wife Geraldine.

Inside some 50 MPs and peers drank of Laurent-Perrier champagne which was being chilled in ice in wastepaper bins which is where his rivals expect his leadership bid to end. Food was at a premium. Plain Pringle crisps and peanuts. It was clear the house was only on loan from

Continued on page 2, col 5

The candidates, page 13
Robert Skidelsky, page 22

Shake-up plan for welfare state

The Social Security Secretary and her deputy have drawn up a ten-year programme for reform of the welfare state that includes proposals to replace cash benefits with other forms of help. Harriet Harman and Frank Field have devised a programme to curb the £90 billion social security bill. Page 2

Minister seeks to end gazumping

Nigel Griffiths, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, is to attempt to stop gazumping across Britain by introducing the Scottish system of house buying.

This would stop potential buyers being left with legal and surveyors' bills when a higher offer is accepted by a house seller. Page 27

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Rantzen 'sacrifices weak to her ego'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ESTHER RANTZEN was accused yesterday of sacrificing the interests of weak and vulnerable people to the greater glory of her ego.

Paul Watson, producer of such fly-on-the-wall documentaries as *The Home, The Factory and The Dinner Party*, said Ms Rantzen exploited the politics of pity in her television programmes about people trying to overcome disability, hardship or tragedy. The programmes were saccharine, maudlin and full of ersatz emotion, but neglected the real needs of the people involved.

Ms Rantzen retaliated with an attack on Mr Watson's documentary technique, saying that it could lure the subjects of his programmes into a false sense of security so that they allowed things to appear on camera which, with hindsight, they would have preferred to keep private.

She also defended her own approach, saying that it had done much to raise public awareness of the work of voluntary organisations and helped them to raise funds.

The two producers clashed at a conference about the media and the voluntary sector at which each warned charities to beware of the

other's activities. Mr Watson, a former BBC producer who now works for Granada Television, said Ms Rantzen's programmes could prove harmful. "I think that what Esther is doing takes the rough edges off the damaging programmes arguing about what they have seen."

"At the end of her programmes you have an image of Esther in your mind, not of the person she was interviewing. I do not like the cult of the personality where people parade their miseries and anxieties to the glory of people like Esther who are on megabucks." He added that voluntary organisations needed to "wise up" to prevent broadcasters and other media people exploiting them.

Mr Watson also criticised programmes such as BBC Television's *Children's Hospital*, which shows real events and

community in the same state as they came on, and the viewer merely turns his face to the wall, I go into things in greater depth and challenge the everyday views that people have on life. I hope that people go to bed after watching my programmes arguing about what they have seen."

Geoffrey Briggs, 33, a bachelor, is recovering from emergency surgery after being flown to an Italian hospital. Arrangements are being made to bring him home.

Mr Briggs's post in Tirana was Second Secretary, Economic. He had been acting chargé d'affaires while the ambassador, Andrew Tesoriero, took annual leave.

Foreign Office staff said the incident was "purely domestic" and made it clear diplomats were allowed relationships with locals, unless there was a security risk.



Watson and Rantzen: warned charities about each other

Redgrave unearths lost Tennessee Williams play

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN UNKNOWN play by Tennessee Williams is to be given its world premiere by the Royal National Theatre after being discovered by the actress Vanessa Redgrave. *Not About Nightingales*, a harrowing story set in an American prison, had been hidden among documents owned by the American playwright's estate.

Trevor Nunn, the National Theatre's artistic director, said: "I'm

astonished that it's never been done or read or performed. It's completely unknown — among the first two or three things he wrote. It has literally never seen the light of day."

Its neglect has nothing to do with the quality of writing, Mr Nunn, who will direct the play next year, believes its homosexual content, though not a major part of the narrative, may have deterred publishers and theatre managers from touching it at a time when the subject was taboo.

Williams — a homosexual who once

described the condition as "a wound that never heals" — created in the play a raw passion and suffering reminiscent of his later classics, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Not About Nightingales, written in 1939 when Williams was 28, is set in a prison perched on an island. "It is tough and abrasive," Mr Nunn said. "It's a protest against the way the justice system incarcerates with no education as part of its programme and even with no forgiveness as part

of its concept. It is a protest about a culture of vengeance."

Part of the reason that the play had remained hidden, it seems, is that the playwright's estate had changed hands since his death in 1983 — from the late Maria St Just, Williams's close friend, to Casarotto Ramsey, agents for the University of the South in Tennessee. Miss Redgrave had stumbled across a reference to the play in Lyle Leverich's 1995 Williams biography which mentioned that he had written it and put it aside.

British diplomat stabbed

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

BRITAIN'S chargé d'affaires in Tirana was stabbed in the stomach yesterday after what is thought to have been a quarrel with his Albanian girlfriend.

Geoffrey Briggs, 33, a bachelor, is recovering from emergency surgery after being flown to an Italian hospital. Arrangements are being made to bring him home.

Mr Briggs's post in Tirana was Second Secretary, Economic. He had been acting chargé d'affaires while the ambassador, Andrew Tesoriero, took annual leave.

Foreign Office staff said the incident was "purely domestic" and made it clear diplomats were allowed relationships with locals, unless there was a security risk.

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Cook gives Major the nod in Labour's body politic

HANSARD should include a marginal note beside MPs' speeches, explaining what they mean. It could be brief, a fraction of the original. In their different ways yesterday, Robin Cook's head and Dennis Skinner's tongue helped provide it.

At Home Office Questions, Mr Skinner offered a running translation of Jack Straw's replies. Hugh Bayley (Lab, City of York), impatient for the promised review of the voting system, asked the new Home Secretary what he meant by "early". Straw

flannelled. "Not too soon," growled Skinner.

Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) asked if Tony Blair was "still opposed" to proportional representation. Straw hesitated. "As near as damn it," growled Skinner. He should operate subtitles to the Commons show. They give the game away.

As did Robin Cook's head, in the debate on Europe which followed. His first Commons speech as Foreign Secretary was shrewd, poised and clever. John Major's last speech as Leader of the

Conservative Party was impressive in sweep and sage in tone. But it was body language which caught attention as no argument can. Robin Cook kept nodding as John Major spoke.

At first Mr Cook took no notice. Mr Major began by trotting routinely through the obligatory party metaphor, calling Cook's frontbench colleagues "starry-eyed" and accusing the Government of carrying "a white flag" to the Amsterdam summit. Cook, who had just sat down, was not listening. Huddling with



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

colleagues over a scrawled note handed to him (we could not see from whom), he looked bothered.

Then Major moved from generalisation to detail. Where other speakers swan confidently through large themes but stumble as they hit the small print, the former Prime Minister sounds unconvinced by his own rhetoric but gathers force as his speech reaches the nitty-gritty. A relaxed Major spoke with command about the problems with "qualified majority voting".

It was then I noticed Robin Cook. He had for some time been listening with growing attentiveness. Now he was nodding in assent.

A Labour backbencher,

meaning to help his front bench, interrupted Major to protest that qualified majority voting in Europe could help Britain override smaller nations. Major replied that small nations are not the problem; the problem was that others might seek to override Britain. We needed to be able to block unwelcome measures. Again (and to my surprise) Cook was nodding.

Major turned to the single European currency. "Certainly we should not enter in 1999," Cook nodded. Perhaps

Donald Anderson (Lab, Swansea E) also intended to help his Foreign Secretary when he interrupted Major to accuse him of advocating a British veto on other European nations going ahead with a single currency, even without Britain. What partners did, he suggested, was none of our business. Vehemently, Major replied that it was indeed our business because there could be "real and damaging effects to this country" if a single currency adopted by others went wrong. If it foundered, its

wreck would make every European problem so far "a vicarious tea party" by comparison.

Again, Cook was nodding. By now Major felt he had sounded a sufficient note of alarm about Europe's direction, and it was time to accede to the positive. He had never been hostile to Europe, he insisted. Sir Edward Heath had been right to take Britain into the Community. The European Union was "a force for good."

Robin Cook had stopped nodding.

Harman looks to replace cash in benefit reforms

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

HARRIET HARMAN and Frank Field have drawn up a 10-year programme to reform the welfare state, including proposals to replace cash benefits with other forms of help.

The Social Security Secretary and her deputy, Mr Field, have put together an ambitious agenda to curb the £90 billion social security bill stretching well into the next century. They are said already to have submitted a rough outline of their plans, which focus on different ways of supplementing state support, to the Prime Minister.

Tony Blair has already made clear that welfare reform is one of his top priorities and he called Mr Field to Downing Street only days after he became Prime Minister to urge him to "think the unthinkable".

One of the most far-reaching ideas is a scheme to review the balance between cash benefits and community care for the sick and the disabled.

Ms Harman is looking at the whole range of disability allowances and assessing whether some payments could be replaced by providing help for disabled people in the home. In the long term this approach could be extended to



Field: Blair urged him to think the unthinkable

other benefits. Sources said Ms Harman was keen to "redress the balance between cash benefits and care".

Another area which Mr Field is particularly keen on is setting up new institutions to offer benefits to individuals, or "mutuality" which is now the buzz word in Whitehall. Friendly societies or trade unions could offer individuals insurance against sickness, unemployment or long term care.

Mr Field is also keen to give people a greater stake in their own welfare by making them more aware of how their money is being spent. One idea is to transform the National Insurance contributions

system to make it more autonomous and managed for its contributors. Each person would be given an individual account with annual statements of where their cash is going.

The 10-year programme which has been drawn up for Mr Blair is said to have included three options for the current benefit system:

- Supplementing state provision with private sector funding. One example is the proposed stakeholder pension to supplement the basic state pension.
- Replacing existing schemes altogether especially means tested benefits. One suggestion is a new care pension - which would be given to those looking after dependents, to replace existing carer allowances.
- New programmes, such as the universal mortgage insurance scheme.

The ideas are said to be at an early stage, with the details still to be fleshed out. But Mr Blair has made clear to his European colleagues over the last week that welfare reform should now be at the top of every country's agenda, arguing that European economies including Britain's could no longer sustain the current high levels of welfare payments.

Leading article, page 23



Bertie Ahern's appointment of Albert Reynolds was described as a sick joke

Ahern angers Unionists by giving Reynolds peace role

By AUDREY MAGEE AND NICHOLAS WATT

UNIONISTS reacted angrily after Bertie Ahern announced yesterday that he would appoint Albert Reynolds as his personal envoy to Northern Ireland. One senior Unionist described the idea as a "sick joke", while a loyalist leader dismissed the proposal as "off the wall".

Their comments came after the Fianna Fail leader confirmed that the former Irish Prime Minister would play a key role in his new Government's dealings with North-

ern Ireland. It was unclear precisely what role Mr Reynolds would have because he will not have a Cabinet seat.

Mr Reynolds, who is credited with convincing republicans to declare a ceasefire in 1994, said he hoped to make a contribution to restoring peace in Ireland. He said: "There is a mood for going forward again and I would hope that we can bring everybody to the table. But, of course, we have to see an IRA ceasefire in place and I would like to see work being

done behind the scenes to build the right environment for both ceasefires being restored."

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said: "I don't want the same sort of thing happening as happened when Albert Reynolds made a deal - and we don't know the deal that he made with Sinn Féin - which brought about the bogus ceasefire of 1994 and finished up with Canary Wharf and Manchester."

Payments agreed on banned weapons

By JAMES LANDALE

PARLIAMENT last night backed proposals to compensate thousands of handgun owners whose weapons have been banned.

Home Office officials expect more than 160,000 large-calibre handguns to be handed in to the police at a cost to taxpayers of almost £170 million. Shooting organisations believe that the figure will be substantially bigger.

All handguns over 22 calibre were banned earlier this year under the Firearms Act. However, the compensation scheme requires separate legislation which came before Houses of Commons and the Lords last night. Peers backed the scheme without a vote.

The handgun ban comes into force on July 1 and owners will have until October 1 to hand weapons in to police stations. After negotiations between the Home Office and the shooting lobby, owners can either accept a flat rate of £150 for each handgun or get an independent valuation of up to £775 for the market price of more expensive weapons. The £169 million compensation total comprises £150 million for the handguns and £19 million for ammunition and ancillary equipment.

Initial plans for the market price to be cut by 40 per cent for wear and tear have been reduced to a cut of 25 per cent. Shooting organisations said this means the compensation bill will be higher than the Government predicts.

Government plans to ban the remaining handguns are before Parliament and will be debated by MPs tomorrow. Labour's majority of 180 means that the total ban should be passed easily, despite protests from pro-shooting MPs and peers.

The moves came as Labour MPs stepped up their campaign to close the rifle range in the House of Commons and to set up a crèche instead.

Review of cancer screening

A national review of breast screening programmes is being considered by the Government after evidence that there were delays in detecting cancer in nine women, two of whom later died of cancer.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, told the Commons yesterday that he had asked Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the way the women were treated when they were seen by the East Devon Breast Screening Service.

Lottery numbers

Plans by Camelot to launch a third televised National Lottery show appeared to suffer a setback when official figures showed that the BBC's live coverage of last Saturday's draw achieved its lowest ratings, with 6.2 million viewers.

Radio fine

Piccadilly Radio in Manchester has been fined £10,000 by the Radio Authority after the presenter James Stanger suggested on air that five teenage joyriders who died in a car crash had "got what they deserved". Stanger was suspended.

Tunnel's last two

Only two tunnellers remained on the site of Manchester airport's second runway after an unwell pregnant woman and a man were brought to the surface. Two men are deep in the 100ft network, behind at least eight locked metal doors.

Air mail

Five of Britain's most famous aircraft designers are commemorated on a new set of stamps. Those featured on the "architects of the air" series include Roy Chadwick, designer of the Lancaster (26p), and Reginald Mitchell, the Spitfire (20p).

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Tories' parties

Continued from page 1

a Cabinet minister, who lost his seat and who is fighting an expensive libel action. Smokers had to flick their ash in plastic containers. Yards of tin foil was unfurled to protect the carpets and antique furniture.

Kenneth Clarke, predictably, was one of the last to arrive at his party at the Institution of Civil Engineers. While guests, including Lord Whitelaw, the former Deputy Prime Minister, drank red and white wine Mr Clarke, in his trademark Hush Puppy shoes, the most potent political prop since Harold Wilson's pipe, drank glasses of beer, brought in especially for him. The only food on offer was cheese and onion crisps.

David Curry, one of his campaign managers, said:



Clark: "No wonder we are out of touch"

"Ken Clarke is partying with the same degree of frugality with which he ran the economy. We don't need champagne to persuade anyone."

First out of the blocks in the soiree stakes was John Redwood who kicked off his tea party at 4.30pm in dining room A at the House of Commons. The former Welsh Secretary drew an initial crowd of around 40 MPs to his afternoon event in the bowels of the House of Commons where his Would-be supporters were treated to traditional English summer party fare of Pimms and lemonade with tea and cakes.

How did the supporters take it? Some MPs were unimpressed. Alan Calrk, the maverick former minister who has not declared for any of the candidates, said: "The whole thing is ghastly and demeaning. No wonder people think we are out of touch."

Mr Clarke was confidently expected by Tory MPs last night to emerge today as the winner of the first round of the Tory leadership election.

Claims by the Michael Howard camp that he was now assured of at least third place in today's opening round brought accusations of "cooking the books" from the supporters of Mr Lilley and Mr Redwood, the other Right contenders. Voting will begin at 10 am and end at 5 pm.

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Robert Skidelsky, page 22

Rantzen attacked

Continued from page 1

case histories. "You care for the kids when you watch it, but what do you learn? There is nobody going on protest marches as a result of these films," he said.

Ms Rantzen, who helped to found the Childline charity in 1986, said that her programmes were valuable and informative. It was paramount to ensure that vulnerable people who were featured retained their dignity throughout the programme.

"People have seen me campaigning out on windswept street corners for the best part of 30 years. They know who I am and I have found a way of reaching them," she said.

The difference between her work and Mr Watson's was not necessarily one of quality, but one of taste, she said. She too, issued a warning to voluntary organisations. "You must ask very serious questions of the crew before you let them in for a long time. Beware of intellectual and charming men like Paul Watson. If his cameras are in your lives over a long period of time, after a while your defences go down and you cease to be aware of what he is filming."

The conference, in London, was organised by the Media Trust and sponsored by News International, owner of The Times.

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My heart bleeds to see Kray in court, says Mad Frankie

By Alan Hamilton

CHARLIE KRAY, elder brother of the notorious twins who ruled gangland London in the 1960s, was a lovely, lovely man who wouldn't say boo to a goose. In fact, he wouldn't even say boo to two geese, a court was told yesterday.

The eulogy was delivered by "Mad Frankie" Fraser, another leading player from that long-ago era whose pop stars are now knights and its villains either dead or coining an honest bob from showing murder scenes to tourists. Fraser earned an awesome reputation, and an eternity behind bars, as an enforcer for the rival Richardson gang, who ran the big rackets south of the Thames.

Fraser, 73, took the stand at Woolwich Crown Court in southeast London yesterday to attest to the good character of Kray, 70, who denies charges involving cocaine worth £39 million. The Crown alleges that he could have made £8 million profit, but for the fact the criminals he believed he was dealing with were undercover police officers.

His hair still dark but his face pallid from 42 years in prison, Fraser spoke in a deep, clear voice, apparently relishing the opportunity handed him by Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, to tell his life story. Judge and jury listened intently; Kray, apart from a brief upward glance as Fraser entered, sat behind the glass screen of the dock flanked by prison officers and stared intently at the floor.

Fraser recalled how he had been better known as "Mad Frankie" when he worked as an enforcer for Charles and Eddie Richardson's empire of one-armed bandits and scrap-metal yards. The rival Krays made their money mainly



Kray in 1965, when the East End was "safe"

from clubs. He explained that he was now married to Marilyn Wisbey, daughter of a Great Train Robber, and since leaving prison in 1989 was doing his best to go straight and earn a living from running guided tours of the high spots of East End villainy. He remarked with some pride that his autobiography had been reprinted ten times.

Asked by Mr Goldberg if it was true that, during his long years in prison, he had been on bread-and-water punishment more than anyone else, Fraser replied: "I would put money on that one." He also agreed that he had received the cat-o-nine-tails three times. How many strokes, Mr Goldberg asked him. "I was greedy — 18 each time."

Smartly dressed in a white shirt, striped tie, checked jacket and black trousers, Fraser said there had been little conflict between the Kray and Richardson gangs, except among the lower ranks. Then senior figures would step in and restore the peace. "So," Mr Goldberg asked, "it was like the Cold War between America and Russia?" Fraser

agreed it was. Despite inter-gang rivalry, Fraser was really quite friendly with the Krays, and had known Charlie for 40 years. "They were very good to me when I was serving a sentence. They used to take my sister to visit me."

Full-scale war almost erupted when Ronnie Kray murdered George Cornell, a Richardson henchman, in the Blind Beggar pub. Why, Mr Goldberg asked, did that killing happen? "He must have spoken to Ronnie not as well as he should have done," Fraser explained, adding that the Blind Beggar was now on his guided tour. "I'd recommend you to have a drink there; it's very nice."

Pressing the point, Mr Goldberg asked what exactly Cornell had said to offend Ronnie Kray. "Theory has it he said Ronnie was a big fat poof, but that was not true." Whatever Cornell had actually said, Fraser agreed, it was not very nice.

The questioning then turned to Charlie Kray, and Mr Goldberg asked if he was in the same mould as his younger brothers. "Impossible, never, ever," Fraser replied emphatically. "He was not like that; he wouldn't say boo to a goose. He's a lovely man — a coward, but a lovely man."

Had war erupted between the rival gangs, would Charlie have been targeted by the Richardsons? "No way at all, of course not," Fraser replied. Far from running organised crime, Charlie ran a coat factory and an entertainment business.

Fraser recalled how he and Charlie were in Albany prison on the Isle of Wight during the hot summer of 1972, when most of the prisoners went on strike. Charlie Kray was one of six inmates who chose to keep his nose clean, putting on



Fraser received the cat-o-nine-tails three times. "I was greedy — 18 each time"

his collar and tie in the morning to walk to work past the jeers and catcalls of his fellow prisoners. Fraser looked over to the dock, where Kray sat, bowed and motionless. "He had his principles. He was a lovely man; he couldn't do nothing wrong. My heart bleeds to see him there."

Mr Goldberg asked Fraser if Charlie Kray was into any crime at all. "None at all," Fraser replied.

When the questioning turned to the subject of drugs, Fraser said the Krays and the Richardsons were dead ag-

ainst them — not least because they hardly existed in those days. When the Krays were in the East End, women and children were 100 per cent free and safe. No muggings, nothing like that. Violence was strictly between gangs, and other people were never involved, Fraser said. "To this day the Krays are quite rightly idolised."

John Kelsey-Fry, for the Crown, asked if Kray was capable of dealing in drugs. "He could not do it, not for a single day, not for a minute. You are probably more into drugs than him," a reply that

earned a swift rebuke from Judge Carroll. Would Mr Fraser refrain from making comments, Fraser apologised, and continued his eulogy. "Charlie wouldn't only not say boo to a goose, he wouldn't say boo to two geese."

The Crown sat down. The defence thanked Fraser for his attendance, and said he was now free to go. Fraser half-raised a right arm in triumph. "This is the first time I've ever walked out of a court free," he announced to laughter. Even Charlie Kray managed the ghost of a smile.

The trial continues.

Art dealer tells how he lost out on £200,000 Constable deal

By Adrian Lee

A DEALER in fine art lost almost £200,000 commission when he was squeezed out of the sale of a £6.7 million Constable painting to the furniture tycoon Sir Graham Kirkham, the High Court was told yesterday.

View On Stour, an oil sketch, was one of three important works sold by the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College between 1992 and 1994 to raise funds for renovation work.

Peter Nahum, 50, who runs his own gallery and has appeared as an expert on the BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow*, had already arranged the sale of *Peasants Going to Market*, by Gainsborough, to Sir Graham for £3.5 million, the court heard. He was paid £100,000 commission but said he was assured that Sir Graham did not want to buy the Constable.

He said he was angry and upset when he later discovered that the college's "secret buyer" for the Constable was Sir Graham, one of Britain's richest men. Mr Nahum claims he is entitled to £196,000 plus interest, because without him the college in Egham, Surrey, would never have been introduced to Sir Graham, a backer of the Conservative Party who was honoured by John Major. The college denies it had any contract with Mr Nahum to sell the second painting.

Mr Nahum, who had hoped to arrange the sale of all three paintings for more than £20 million, earning him £500,000 commission, read in a newspaper that Sir Graham had bought the Constable. He confronted another art dealer, Alan Hobart, also Sir Graham's agent. Mr Hobart was, at the time, a close friend of 20 years, said Mr Nahum, and the man who had told him Sir Graham had no interest. "I was angry. My friend had told me [Sir Graham] was not interested in buying that picture. I did think it extraordinary that someone should go behind my back."

Joe Smouha, for Mr Nahum, said it later emerged that Mr Hobart and an academic, Professor Norman McConkey, dean of arts and design at the University of Northumbria, had received commission from Sir Graham for arranging the second purchase. His client had been cut out of the deal, and the college did not pay any commission. It asserts

that the deal was arranged directly with Sir Graham's representatives.

Mr Nahum said the normal rate of commission was between 10 and 15 per cent but he had agreed to work for 2.5 per cent because of the high value of the art. He was one of a number of dealers seeking purchasers on behalf of the college and estimated his costs were more than £30,000.

He had visited 90 museums and galleries in the United States during his two-year search. The first work, *Von Troop Going About*, by Turner, was sold to the Getty Museum without Mr Nahum's help, so he received no commission.

All three works were among a collection of 77 bequeathed to the college by one of its founders, Thomas Holloway, in 1886. The col-



Kirkham: bought two paintings from college

lege's decision to sell had itself attracted controversy.

Mr Smouha said the agreement between Mr Nahum, owner of the Leicester Galleries in London, whose fees are £1,000 a day, and Mr Hobart was verbal. "It is the norm... in the fine art world, not to reduce such agreements to contracts in writing."

The court was told that Mr Nahum and Mr Hobart were no longer friends. Mr Nahum, who previously worked for Sotheby's, said: "My feeling is that the college were dealing in a market they did not truly understand and they did not have an adviser."

There is no suggestion that Sir Graham Kirkham the son of a miner who made his estimated £260 million fortune through the flotation of the DFS furniture company, acted improperly. The case continues.

'Charlie has not got an ounce of badness in him'

By Alan Hamilton



Sheridan-Price: impressed by Kray's younger brothers

THE defence produced an entire cast of East Enders at Woolwich Crown Court to attest to the virtues, and good nature of Charlie Kray.

"Mad Frankie" Fraser was followed by a string of supporting acts. William Murray, who plays Detective Sergeant Bech in *ITV's The Bill*, said Kray had funded his first year at Joan Littlewood's East End acting school, and had given him £400 to live on, a substantial sum at the time. When the actor was awarded a grant and offered to repay the money, he said Kray had told him: "Keep it. It's a long life."

Mr Murray, 54, who gave his address as that of his agent in central London, said that all three Kray brothers were like that. "There was

many a time they were sticking a fiver in my pocket. Charlie was a generous man. He was regarded as a gentleman. He was different from the other two." In recent years he always claimed to have a deal going, whether in oil or South African gold, but none were genuine. "Anyone who actually believed him would have to have a brain cell missing."

Eileen Sheridan-Price, who was the first Miss Great Britain in 1960, and the first Miss UK, described Kray as the salt of the earth. "He is a lovely rascal. The whole world is a happier place every time he comes to the door. He has not got an ounce of malice or badness in him." In recent years, she said, Kray had been so broke that he could not afford more than one suit, nor a trip to the barber. She admitted that she had been

impressed by the style, charisma and integrity of his younger brothers. The world had been a much safer place when they were around. Asked whether any of the Krays would ever have had anything to do with drugs, he replied: "Certainly not. It was alien to their make up. I feel very vehement about the one. I remember Charlie saying to me once, 'Anybody who pushes drugs is the scum of the earth.'"

Michelle Hamdouchi, a nightclub worker, told the court that she had had a two-week affair with one of the undercover police officers in the case, whom she knew as Brian. They had met in a Birmingham nightclub, where Kray was also a guest. She said the officer, who earlier in the trial denied suggestions of an affair, had given the impression he was a

drug dealer and was involved in setting up a cocaine deal with Kray. Mrs Hamdouchi, 32, said that, during their affair, she and Brian had stayed at the Swallow Hotel in Waltham Abbey, Essex, where they and another undercover officer, referred to as Jack, had spent hours at the bar drinking with the Spice Girl Victoria Adams.

Mrs Hamdouchi said that Brian had told her he was there to see Kray about a drugs deal, and that he had £63,000 in the boot of his car. After Kray had been arrested, Mrs Hamdouchi said she had received a telephone call from Brian saying he had to lie low for a while. She had not seen him again.

Asked by Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, to describe Brian, she replied: "Well, he's fat."

Bus driver died after attack by gang of women

By A Staff Reporter

A BRITISH coach driver who died in hospital two months after being found apparently the victim of a female criminal gang, emerged at an inquest yesterday.

Joe Baines, a 53-year-old father of five, died in hospital in Durham in December, two months after suffering severe head injuries when he was repeatedly attacked in a park in the capital of the Czech Republic.

The inquest was told that Mr Baines and three other drivers who had taken two coach loads of Hull University students to Prague had a night out in the city and were chatting up by a group of women who wanted to take them in taxis to another bar. Of the three who went with the women, two later returned to their hotel minus their wallets, and Mr Baines was found lying in a park, battered and stripped of his cash and valuables.

James Sunter, a pathologist, said Mr Baines died from pneumonia which developed as he lay unconscious as a result of severe brain damage. He said the injuries suggested Mr Baines had been attacked from behind, with several blows being struck rather than a single devastating one.

Recording a verdict that Mr Baines, from Durham, was unlawfully killed, Geoffrey Burt, the north Durham coroner, said: "It seems to me that the three drivers who were robbed had been the subject of some preconceived plan by

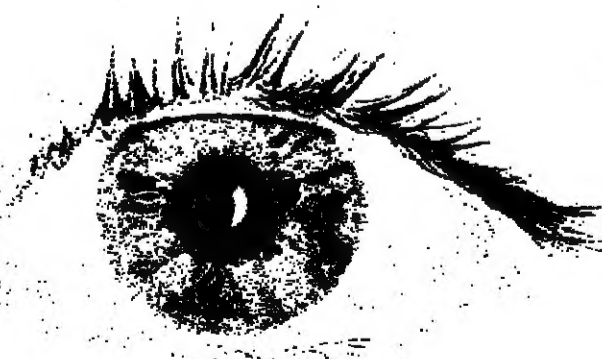
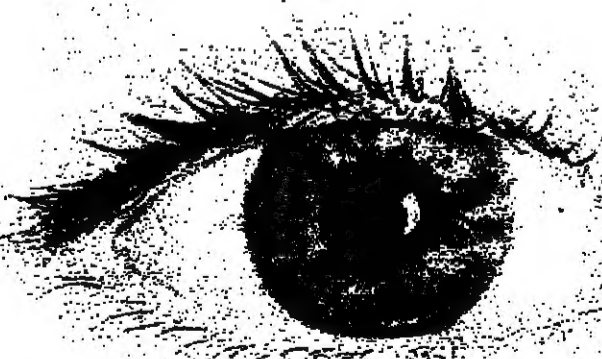
local residents to rob foreign nationals. "They had been lured away in taxis or to remote places and robbed of their possessions. It may be Mr Baines resisted and was attacked. Quite clearly he was viciously attacked and robbed."

The inquest was told that the drivers' encounter with the women in a bar was their second brush with female thieves that night. Earlier, as they walked through the city, six women had accosted them, one of them grabbing Billy Fairless's wallet and fleeing. He said he chased her and recovered his money.

He said that after the second group of women approached them in a bar, his legs suddenly "felt fuzzy". When he finally got back to the hotel he reached for his wallet to pay the taxi fare and it was not there. Stuart Dobson, a fellow driver, said he felt "woozy" the morning afterwards, which was unusual for him. He also had his wallet which had contained £600, stolen.

The only driver who did not go was Stephen Barlow, who told the hearing he refused to join the other three and the women and took a train back to the hotel alone. When he heard about the other two being robbed he did not feel very sympathetic.

The drivers said they reported the women's actions to the local police. They took officers to the bar where they were accosted and were shown pictures of women but could not identify any of them.



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Oyster firm sues over Ritz food poison claim

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A HIGH Court jury was handed two dozen oysters yesterday at the start of a libel action brought by a supplier of shellfish to the Ritz Hotel in London.

But the oysters had been vacuum sealed and sealed with Araldite and were not for eating but for examining, said Jonathan Crystal, representing Colchester Oyster Fishery. He asked the jury to spot the difference between the native oyster and the rock, or Pacific, oyster, which was blamed for a series of outbreaks of illness in 1991. "It's not every jury which is treated to bags of oysters at the beginning of a case," he told them. But the difference between the two species of oyster was central to the case, he explained.

It was rock oysters from Ireland which made diners at the Ritz ill in December 1991, not native oysters which Colchester Oyster Fishery Limited supplied, he told the jury. Despite the difference, Christopher Purslow, a hygiene consultant employed by the Ritz to investigate the food poisoning, wrongly attributed



Christopher Purslow: blamed Colchester firm

it to oysters supplied by Colchester Oyster Fisheries.

His report was sent to the Ritz, its loss adjusters and a rival shellfish supplier, Colchester Oyster Fisheries and its director Roger Kerrison claim damages for loss of reputation and sales. Mr Crystal said in the winter of 1991 there were four outbreaks of food poisoning among diners at London's Savoy Hotel, Le Pont de la Tour and Café Fish which were linked to rock

oysters. None of these however was supplied by Colchester Oyster Fisheries.

In December 1991 a dinner party of eight had eaten in the Ritz dining room, consuming salad of warm oysters, roast Norfolk Turkey and Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. "Twenty-four hours later the organiser and six of her guests were severely unwell," Mr Crystal said.

A week later, 20 diners gathered for their firm's Christmas celebration also ate the same menu and hours later eight were also unwell. Mr Purslow, who was on a retainer with the Ritz to investigate food hygiene, was asked to look into the matter. After hospital tests, the gastric poisoning was found to come from rock oysters deriving from Cork harbour in Ireland, where there was a history of contamination in the oyster beds by raw sewage.

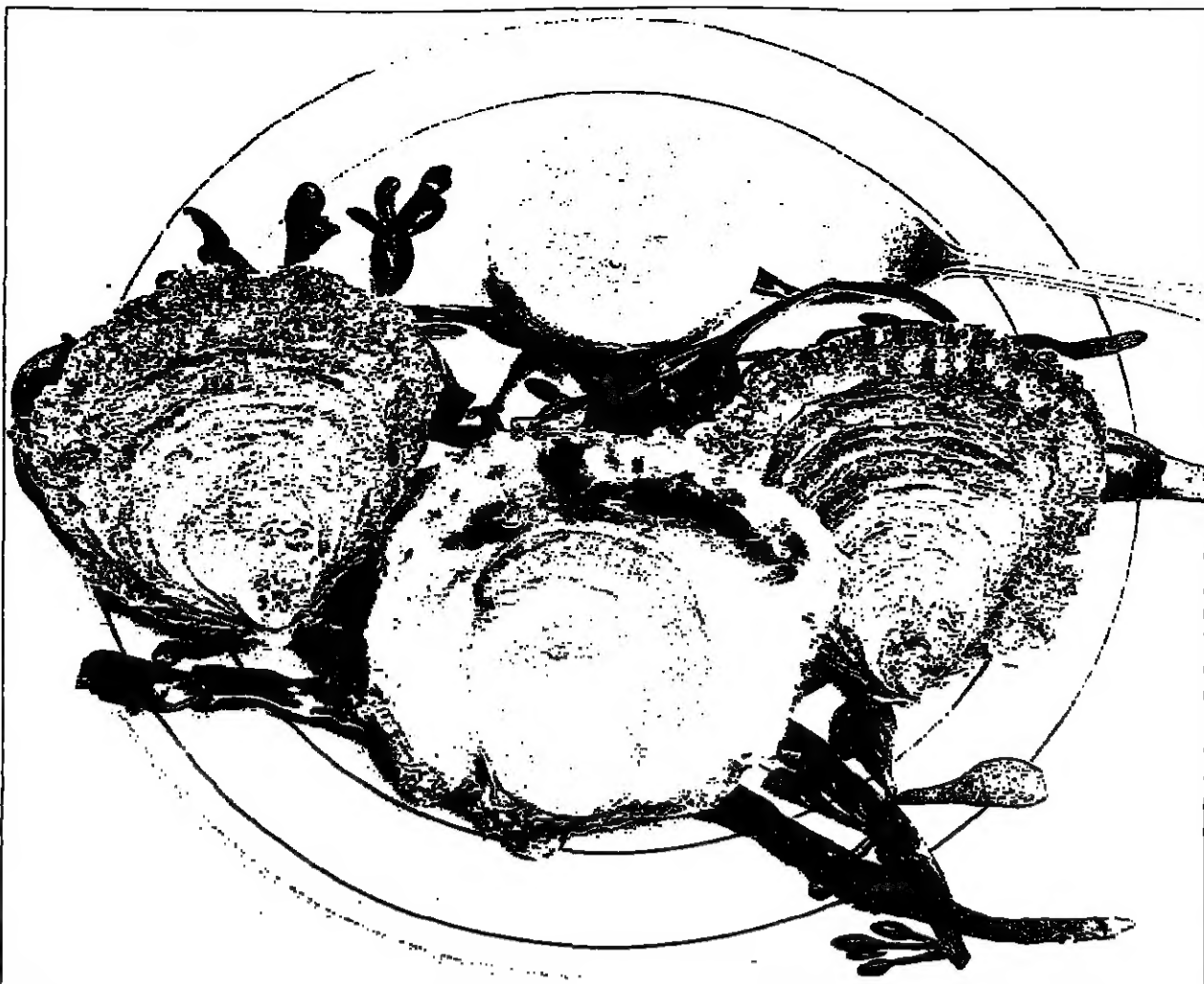
Mr Purslow then wrote his report wrongly naming Colchester Oyster Fisheries as the supplier of the oysters without checking the hotel's invoices and receipts. "He had named the wrong supplier, Colchester Oyster Fisheries

were not supplying rock oysters to the Ritz in 1991 because they were supplying native oysters," Mr Crystal said.

The result was that Colchester Oyster Fishery had suffered loss of reputation and sales and they were now claiming damages. Mr Crystal told the jury: "You would not wish to be accused of poisoning your guests and so it was with my clients who were being accused of poisoning Ritz Hotel diners."

In fact, the jury would be hearing from the Ritz's store manager who would tell them he had a standing order for rock oysters with The Atlantic Shellfish Company. In January of 1992 Colchester Oyster Fisheries were contacted by the Ritz's loss adjusters who told them they would have to cover compensation claims by the hotel guests. Despite immediately writing to Mr Purslow asking for a correction, the company has never heard back.

Mr Crystal told the jury they would have to decide if Mr Purslow's report defamed Colchester Oyster Fisheries. Chris Purslow & Associates deny libel. The case continues.



Pacific oysters were said to have poisoned Ritz diners, but the Colchester company says it did not supply them

'Osteopath was murdered over secret drug deal'

By A STAFF REPORTER

TO colleagues and friends Danny Dyke was an admired osteopath and avid rugby fan. What none knew was that the 31-year-old bachelor led a double life supplying drugs and that a dispute over a deal led to him being murdered and buried in a concrete coffin on a Welsh hillside.

To cover their crime the three-man gang accused of murdering Mr Dyke are alleged to have twice exhumed his body, doused it in petrol and then reburied it encased in concrete. They then covered his makeshift hillside grave in rubble. Swansea Crown Court was told.

Detectives had all but given up searching for Mr Dyke, who worked as a physiotherapist and played rugby for Eastbourne. Then last year one of the gang, John Welsby,

led police to the remote grave.

John Welsby, 38, and his brother Terence, 41, and a nightclub bouncer John Wilson, 38, all deny murder. The court was told how Mr Dyke, who worked as an osteopath in Neath and Swansea, had driven from his home near Eastbourne to South Wales in April 1994 to collect money owed to him from drug deals.

Christopher Llewellyn-Jenkins, for the prosecution, said Mr Dyke had built up a sophisticated undercover drugs network with dealers in London, South Wales and near his home in Friston, East Sussex, where he lived with his mother, Suzanne.

He told how on April 13, Dyke drove to Swansea in his Ford RS Turbo to collect £16,000 from Mr Welsby. He then headed for Mr Wilson's home in search of more cash. There Mr Welsby was joined by the Welsby brothers and there was an argument over money in the kitchen.

"In the kitchen of the house Daniel Dyke was attacked and killed. His body was wrapped in the kitchen carpet and put into the back of a van," Mr Llewellyn-Jenkins said.

The trial continues.

CORRECTION

Comments from the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (report May 23) were wrongly attributed to the Scottish Cot Death Trust, at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow. We apologise for the error.

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Nanny's slap 'left handprint on boy'

By TIM JONES

A TEENAGE nanny slapped a little boy so hard that the imprints of her hand could be seen on his bruised bottom hours later, a court was told yesterday.

Stacey Spence, 19, a qualified nanny, allegedly hit the 2½-year-old after what she claimed was "an absolutely horrendous day" looking after him and his sister, aged five. Christopher Gray, for the prosecution, told Northampton Crown Court that the boy, who cannot be named, also had clumps of hair missing, friction burns to his back and elbow and two injured fingers. When Miss Spence left for home the boy burst into tears and clung to his mother.

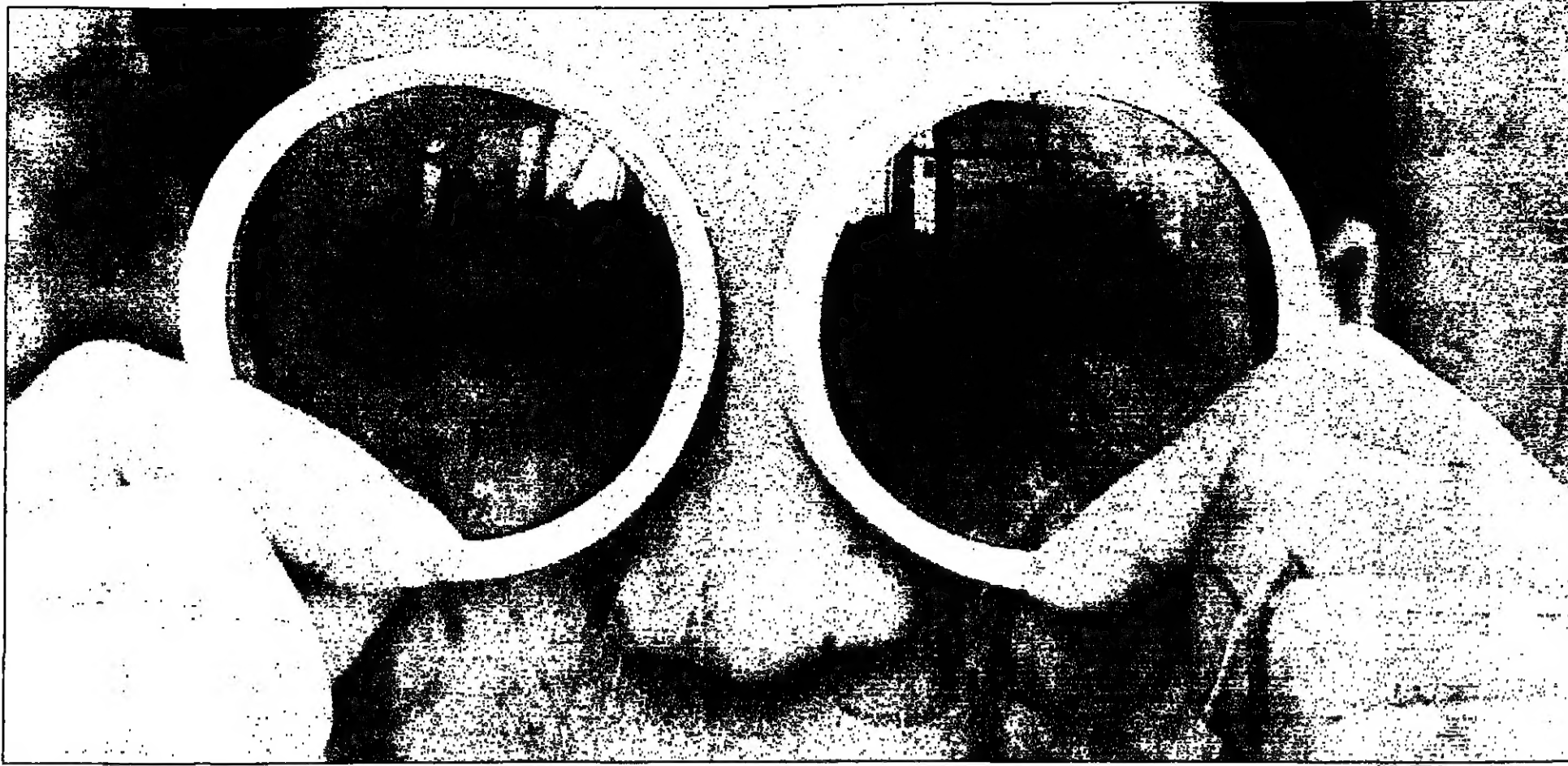
Mr Gray said the parents had employed Miss Spence because they knew her family, who lived in the same village. He said that, after returning home last October, the father found his son shaking and he and Miss Spence seemed to be stressed.

"When he asked Miss Spence what was up she said the boy had been worse than ever," Mr Gray said. "She said she had a headache and had had an awful day. She said the boy had wet and soiled his pants and she had had to give him a bath. She said he had spat out his lunch over the table and some had gone over his sister."

Miss Spence, the court heard, had told the mother that her son had been very disobedient and had given her "an absolutely horrendous day". She admitted smacking the boy on the bottom, but claimed that it had been only a tap.

While being changed for bed, the boy clung to his mother, who saw the bruises on his bottom. He also had spots of blood on his scalp where hair was missing and limped on his left leg. The mother, an NHS radiologist, said her son was terrified when Miss Spence arrived for work the next day. She said: "I don't employ people to hit my children. I never smack my children."

Miss Spence, from Thrapston, Northamptonshire, denies inflicting actual bodily harm on the boy. The trial continues.



Improved vision: David Harris with two of his coloured contact lenses yesterday. The design works by tricking the brain into seeing colours differently, giving more vivid hues

Contact lens could cure colour blindness

By PAUL WILKINSON

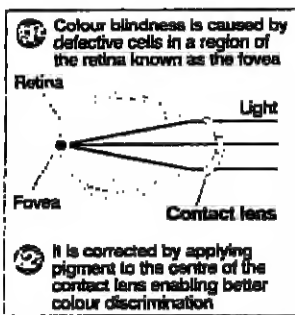
A CONTACT lens designed to help people suffering from colour blindness has been developed by an optician at St James's Hospital in Leeds.

The problem is common, affecting one in 12 British men and one in 300 women, but until now there has been no way of correcting it. The contact lens, called ChromaGen, has been devised by David Harris, and works by tricking the brain into seeing colours differently.

In the past month he has perfected a method of applying the pigment to ordinary spectacles. Technicians coat the outer surface of the lenses with a gold-silver mix, making them look like sunglasses.

Mr Harris, 37, who runs a laser treatment centre in Liverpool, has spent two years on the design. At the centre of the lens is a suitable pigment, chosen to suit the particular patient. While it does nothing to change the basic problem of a defect in the retina, the pigment enables colour-blind people to see more vivid hues.

Clinical tests of his lenses on a sample of 275 people has



improved colour vision in 96.7 per cent of them, he claims.

Men are more prone to colour blindness than women because they have different chromosomes. The condition is caused by a defect in cells in the outer surface of the retina, which detects individual colours and mixes them to give the brain the correct shade. Most sufferers have problems with discerning either red or green. In the worst red-deficient cases, sufferers see it as black.

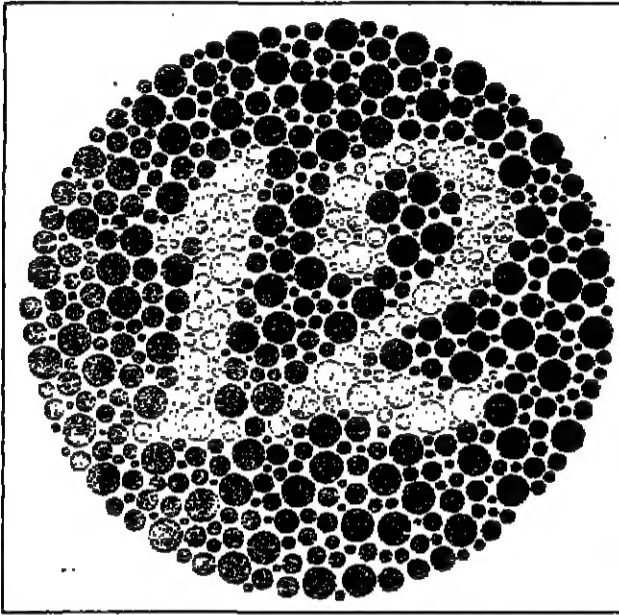
Mr Harris's process adds a colour to compensate for the deficiency. He said: "It's not quite as simple as adding red to make up for a red deficiency. What works for one person might not work for another who apparently has the same

problem. By using a set of 26 different tints we can see what works for the individual.

"There were attempts in the late 1960s and early 1970s to use coloured lenses to improve colour vision, but they were unsuccessful. I have based my research on that and finally made the breakthrough about a year ago. Patients most often describe the effect as an intensifying of their colour vision, enabling them to more accurately identify colours that might otherwise have been confused.

"A tiny amount of pigment is added to the centre of the lens. It is not apparent to the casual observer, because it is over the pupil, but the wearer sees a colour-enhanced view. Normally we need to do it only for one eye, it is enough for the brain to create a correct picture from the images received from both eyes."

So far 400 people are using the new lenses but Mr Harris is setting up a national training scheme for opticians. The first six are expected to qualify shortly. They will operate the system under licence and the lenses will retail at between £200 and £300. Mr Harris



Pick a number: standard test for colour-blindness

said: "They are unlikely to be available on the National Health Service, as any kind of contact lens is difficult to get on the NHS these days. However, some fundholding GPs have been prepared to buy them for patients."

The lenses will not mean

that people who were previously barred from jobs where correct colour vision was essential will now be able to find employment. Mr Harris said: "The Civil Aviation Authority, for example, which requires perfect colour vision for pilots, will not change their minds.

but police forces are showing an interest.

"And in areas where safety is not a requirement, anything from mixing paint to the electronics industry when things like picking out the correct colour-coded resistor are important, it will of great benefit."

Stephen Spall, the administrator of the Corneal Laser Centre at St James's, said: "It is such a simple idea that people will ask why it was not developed before now. But as with all inventions it is often the simplest which prove to be the best."

"The astounding thing about all this is that the lenses themselves have nothing particularly special about them. The success of ChromaGen is more dependent on how the patients react to them. No one really knows how they work."

Stephen Lofthouse, a 37-year-old sales executive of Dewsbury, west Yorkshire, has red-green colour blindness. The condition improved with ChromaGen lenses. He said: "I never realised what it was like to see colours as they really are. I had a very drab view of the world."

Nuclear flights are safe, says company

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that lives are being put at risk by flights of nuclear waste across Britain were dismissed last night by British Nuclear Fuels.

Consignments of plutonium and uranium between Sellafield, in Cumbria, and the Continent will become more frequent when a spent-fuel reprocessing plant comes on stream. Denis MacShane, Labour MP for Rotherham, has said that the flights will cross his constituency. It is claimed that the emergency services are worried about the risks of an air crash. Mr MacShane said yesterday that Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, had agreed to meet him to discuss his concerns. He added that he would be calling for a ban on flights of plutonium.

BNFL confirmed yesterday that a test flight of the new fuel, called mixed oxide, was made last year between Britain and Switzerland. But the company denied that flights went over heavily populated areas. "Nuclear materials, including plutonium and mixed oxide fuel, have been safely transported by air by the civil nuclear power industry for over 30 years. There has never been an accident involving the release of radioactivity."

"Flights have been conducted in complete safety from Carlisle airport for many years," a spokesman said. The company said that the containers met United Nations safety standards and more stringent company tests.

The MOX plant, which turns spent fuel into a hard ceramic blend of nuclear materials, is set to come fully on stream after consultation by the Department of the Environment. The Environment Agency is studying air freight.

Dr John Hazard, a nuclear physicist at Imperial College, London, told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that he believed the flights were at least partly motivated "by the political requirement to avoid the sort of confrontation with protesters which rail or road and sea travel seems to have attracted". He added: "If it has to be transported I can't think of a worse way to do it."

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Silent star's letters show truth behind the scandal

Archive may redeem Mabel Normand's reputation, says John Vincent

SHE was the original Twenties flapper, the "I don't care" girl whose fabulous film career ended amid rumours of drug abuse and murder.

Mabel Normand, brilliant comedienne, pioneer of early cinema and long-time lover of Mack Sennett, lived life to the full. But it was a wild and dissolute life and it led to her death at the age of 35 from a combination of pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Sixty seven years later, her great-nephew is selling an archive of letters and photographs. The Rev Stephen Normand defends Normand's reputation fiercely. "She was actually a very kind and generous woman."

Mr Normand, a curate in St Albans, Hertfordshire, said yesterday: "I have spoken to many scholars and people who have known Mabel and no one has had a bad word to say about her. She became entangled in some famous scandals of her day, but she

was simply someone who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I hope the sale of the archive will help to set the record straight."

The papers are expected to fetch up to £4,000 at Phillips in London on Thursday; the proceeds will go to cancer research. They include intimate letters from her husband, the actor Lew Cody, as well as correspondence to and from friends, among them Mary Pickford, John Barrymore, Pola Negri and Norma Talmadge. The photographs include some of her as a child. More bizarre are a lock of hair cut from her head after her death, and X-rays of her teeth in 1924 and 1925.

Normand, who appeared in numerous films between 1911 and 1926, is described by the film historian Ephraim Katz as "perhaps the most talented comic star of the silent screen". She was also the only woman to have directed Charlie Chaplin, who greatly ad-

mired her comic technique and timing, and the first person to direct a film that grossed a million dollars: *Mickey*, in 1918.

Her love affair with Sennett, the actor, director and producer who described her as being "beautiful as a spring morning", was immortalised in the 1974 Broadway and West End musical *Mack and Mabel*.

According to her great-nephew, "Mabel was too trusting of Mack Sennett and this ultimately led to the breakdown of their relationship. In 1916 Mabel produced *Mickey*, her first feature-length film, but when Sennett saw the finished version, he led Mabel to believe that it was not very good and bought the rights from her for \$25,000."

Two years later, after Mabel moved on to the Goldwyn studio, Sennett released *Mickey* and it became an overnight success. After that,

Mabel felt she couldn't trust Mack Sennett any longer."

Normand, separated from Sennett for the first time in seven years, was soon caught up in a whirl of extravagant all-night parties and was rumoured to be addicted to drugs. In 1922 the director William Desmond Taylor, with whom Normand was romantically linked, was murdered. Although she was eventually cleared of any involvement, her image was permanently tarnished.

Then her chauffeur was found standing over the body of a Hollywood millionaire, Cortland S. Dines — and the smoking gun in his hand belonged to Normand. The double scandal had a shattering effect on her career and her popularity waned rapidly.

Her marriage to Cody, who played the villain in *Mickey*, was a last stab at happiness, as both of them were dying, she from a life of excess, he from a heart ailment.



Mabel Normand in *Raggedy Rose*. She was described as "the most talented comic star of the silent screen"

Bridgewater man in court over theft

By A STAFF REPORTER

MICHAEL HICKEY, one of the Bridgewater Four, was released on bail yesterday after he appeared in court charged with the theft of a gold ring and possession of a machete.

Mr Hickey, 36, appeared in a high-security courtroom at Birmingham Magistrates' Court flanked by security guards and dressed in blue denim shirt, blue jeans and blue socks, but no shoes. He appeared disorientated during the brief hearing, spoke to confirm his date of birth, his name and that he understood a charge of the theft of an 18-carat solitaire diamond ring worth £750 from a jewellery shop in Birmingham on Saturday. He was also charged with possessing an offensive weapon, a 10in machete.

An application for bail by Jim Nichol, for Mr Hickey, was granted by stipendiary magistrate Michael James, to muted cheers. Mr James adjourned the case for reports until June 30 and bailed Mr Hickey with a condition he live at an address in Kidderminster.

Mr Hickey, his cousin Vin-

cent Hickey, Jimmy Robinson and Patrick Molloy were jailed at Stafford Crown Court in 1979 for the shotgun killing of Carl Bridgewater, a newspaper delivery boy, at Yew Tree Farm near Stourbridge the previous year.

Vincent Hickey, then aged 25, and Mr Robinson, then 43, were sentenced to life and Michael Hickey was ordered to be detained indefinitely. Mr Molloy, jailed for manslaughter, died in prison in 1981.

The three survivors were released on unopposed bail by the Court of Appeal on February 21 this year. Their formal appeal began in April, lasted 22 days and was adjourned last month after judgment was reserved.

Outside court yesterday Ann Whelan, Mr Hickey's mother, who campaigned for his release, said she feared he was suffering from a psychiatric illness. "It's quite clear that Michael isn't well."

"I think he needs a lot of help. Any logically thinking person must see that you can't lock someone away for eighteen and a half years and then just throw them out. It's like life has gushed out at him and he's rushed at life but it's changed and he's finding it very difficult. It's just sad and unfortunate but what happened, happened."

She said that her son felt he wanted a quiet period away from the glare of media attention.

Michelle Beswick, Mr Hickey's girlfriend with whom he has lived since his release, said she was pleased that he would be going home. Miss Beswick, 31, said: "I just want him home, that's all. We will make sure that he does come back to court. He can't do all those many years without being affected but I'm doing the best I can to help him."



Hickey: in need of help, according to his mother

Climber walks on with broken neck

By PAUL WILKINSON

A CLIMBER walked two miles with a broken neck and fractured skull after a fall on Ben Nevis. Stanley Draycott, 48, from Rotherham, south Yorkshire, slipped on wet rocks and landed head first on a stone slab as he climbed Britain's highest mountain alone.

He was found by a party of German students who alerted a mountain rescue team. Last night he was said to be "badly shocked but stable and satisfactory" in the Queen Elizabeth spinal injuries unit of the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow.

"He is a lucky man," a hospital spokesman said. "He has to undergo a series of tests and scans but he had a high degree of movement in his neck, so the prognosis is potentially favourable."

Mr Draycott's wife, Suzanne, said: "I warned him not to walk alone. The terrain in Scotland is more difficult than what he is used to. I warned him about this trip but he is very stubborn. He usually

walks in the Lake District or Derbyshire but the terrain in Scotland is more dangerous."

"He insisted on going alone and I was terrified that something like this would happen. Hopefully now he will see sense and stick to easier walks with a group. The main thing is that he is alive. It could have been a lot worse."

Mr Draycott, a metallurgist with British Steel, was knocked unconscious in the fall on Sunday evening and came round after almost an hour. At about 10pm he stumbled on a group of students camping 1,500ft below where he fell. One ran to a youth hostel near by to raise the alarm.

Mr Draycott was carried off the mountain after midnight by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team. It was not until doctors at Belford Hospital in Fort William examined him that it was realised he had broken bones in his neck and a fractured skull. He was then transferred to the Southern General Hospital.

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Weeping mother says premature baby was given no chance to live

By Shirley English

A MOTHER wept yesterday as she said that a doctor left her premature baby daughter to die in her arms after pronouncing her "not viable", even though she was moving and breathing normally.

Kirsty Cassidy, 22, said that Rebecca, who weighed 1lb 4oz, looked fine and was trying her hardest to live, but doctors just walked away. She told a fatal accident inquiry at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court that she screamed at Dr Faisal Al-Zidgali, a paediatrician, to put her daughter into intensive care, but that he took a brief look at the newborn child and decided she was beyond help.

Mrs Cassidy, of Irvine, Ayrshire, said: "He came in and pulled the towel away from her face, then said, 'I am sorry, she is too small, she is not viable. There is nothing I can do. I am not going to do anything.' He looked at her again and said he was sorry, then he just walked back out of the door."

"I wanted to hold her because I knew no one was coming back. I was shouting for help but the door stayed shut. All I could think was,

how could he walk away and leave her when she was moving around and trying her hardest?"

Mrs Cassidy, who has two other children, hopes to establish that parents should have the right to be consulted over whether their child is given lifesaving treatment, no matter how slim the chance of survival. She claims that Ayrshire Central Hospital mismanaged her pregnancy and did not take all reasonable precautions to prevent her baby's death. She had a history of miscarriage which did not appear to be taken into account.

Mrs Cassidy said that she demanded an inquiry because she knew it was possible for babies as small as Rebecca to survive. Although she miscarried at 21 weeks in 1992, her son Darren, now four, was born at 29 weeks at Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow. Unlike Rebecca, he was given the care he needed to survive, she said.

Rebecca was born on September 7 after a 25-week pregnancy. Her mother said that her colour was good, she was breathing and her fingers, legs and arms were mov-

ing. She lived for more than an hour cradled in her mother's arms.

Mrs Cassidy told the court that the baby looked so well that her husband John, 36, left the room to telephone relatives with the good news. Moments later their happiness was shattered by Dr Zidgali's diagnosis.

Mrs Cassidy said that next day the paediatrician told her that Rebecca's movements were muscle spasms and her breathing nothing but gasps. He said placing her in intensive care, linked to drips and needles, would have been painful and she might have become brain-damaged or disabled.

"He was admitting she could have had a chance of survival," Mrs Cassidy said. "I thought, it is not up to him to decide if I wish or do not wish to have a handicapped child. I could not say if she would have lived or not, but she never was given the chance."

Certificates issued by the hospital gave the time of birth and death as 2pm. "It was as if she had not lived at all, had not existed," Mrs Cassidy said. After she complained



John and Kirsty Cassidy. He had telephoned relatives with news of the birth when the doctor gave his "shattering" diagnosis

the hospital changed the time of death to 2.30pm.

Mrs Cassidy said that guidelines used throughout Britain were that babies born at more than 500 grammes should be put into intensive care — Rebecca was 570

grammes — and that doctors should do what parents requested.

Cross-examined by Susan Murray, representing North Ayrshire and Arran NHS Trust, Mrs Cassidy denied that when Dr Zidgali examined Rebecca she was

already turning blue. She said that midwives continued to monitor the baby for an hour.

The doctor's notes recorded that Rebecca was "very premature, had fixed or fused eyes and was more like a 23-week gestation". Her

breathing was in gasps and her heart rate was ten beats a minute, compared with a normal 120-160 beats. He had concluded: "No resuscitation, not viable, not dynamic."

The case continues.

Greer attacks mutilation of precious books

By Jim McCue

GERMAINE GREER has accused the antiquarian book trade of barbarism by cutting up volumes to sell single pages as prints.

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association had commissioned her to write a preface for its catalogue for the London book fair, but Ms Greer's work was rejected after she attacked some members for selling "the wreckage of beautiful books in the shape of single leaves at inflated prices".

In the article, published in *The Times* today, the author and academic writes: "If it is barbarous to burn a book, it is hardly less barbarous to dismember it."

"Whenever I see a page torn from a psalter or a missal or worse still a herbal or a florilegium, and sold off as something to frame and hang on a wall, I vow to ring my Euro MP and ask him to bring a Bill in the European Parliament to outlaw any further breaking-up of antiquarian books for profit."

Joylon Hudson, of the association, said: "We wanted an article about the bicentenary of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley." The association represents 225 dealers in this country, including a small number who regularly break fine illustrated books for their plates, which can realise up to five or ten times as much when sold separately for wall decorations.

Few dealers admit to such mutilation, and the usual excuse given is that the book was already in an imperfect state. However, only a few



Greer: she accused the book trade of barbarism

months ago a reputable bookseller who had bought a copy of the 1632 Second Folio of Shakespeare missing only a few pages said if it did not sell readily he might break it "very reluctantly", to sell to visiting Americans.

The president of the association, Peter Miller of Spelman's bookshop in York, said that some dealers, including himself, now refuse to touch single prints unless they have been issued separately. "But Germaine Greer is looking at books from a purist, academic point of view, making out that every one is a unique piece of evidence. She doesn't ask whether there is one copy left or a thousand."

A spokesman for Pickering and Chatto in Pall Mall said somebody "needs to get on to a soapbox as she has, and scream about it" but it would not help solve the problem of incomplete books.

Germaine Greer, page 22

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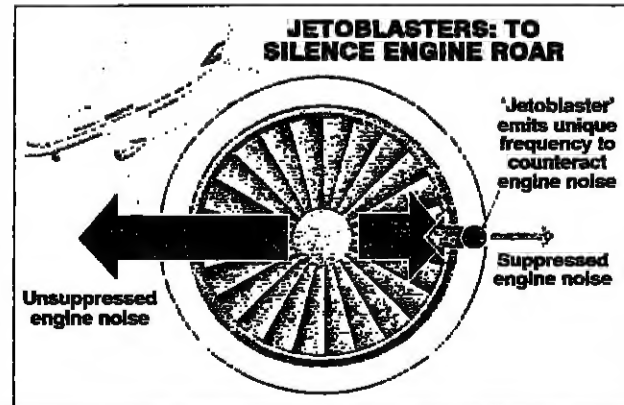
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CABLE & WIRELESS



Scientists use noise to silence jet engine

By Harvey Elliott, AIR CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF may be at hand for people living near busy airports after a breakthrough in the suppression of jet engine noise.

A sophisticated compressed-air "loudspeaker", nicknamed the jetoblaster, produces noise at similar frequencies to those in a jet engine, thus cancelling them out. The device is about to go on ground trials at Heathrow airport and, if successful, it is planned to develop a smaller unit to instal on an airborne jet. The trial is being run jointly by the airport operator BAA, British Airways and the Department of Trade.

Mike Birchall, Heathrow's head of noise policy, said

yesterday: "We are constantly looking at new ways to minimise the impact of aircraft noise. If successful, this technology has some exciting possibilities and we are pleased to invest in the research."

Although the theory on which the jetoblaster works, known as anti-noise, has been known for some time, the technology has not until now existed for the reduction of noise within the engine itself. A British company, Cambridge Concept, believes it has produced a mini-version of a system already successfully used to control general cabin noise by vibrating the air like a human voice.

Modern males are at more risk than women, but are less likely to do anything about it

Men behaving badly pose lethal risk to their health

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to launch a health campaign for men with the stark message that the modern male's lifestyle is killing him. Not only do men take greater risks in cars, on sports fields and at work, but they smoke and drink more than women and eat much more than in the past. Yet when they become ill they are less likely to go to the doctor.

The result is that men live an average of five years less than women and are more likely to die early from cancer and heart disease. They even suffer increasingly from breast cancer, the one part of the body where women are more prone to develop illness than men.

Men's macho attitude and lifestyle is behind their ill health, according to the Health Education Authority. "On the one hand men are more likely to become ill because of worries such as finding a role in life, employment, having somewhere to live, violence and personal relationships," the authority says in its *Healthy Man's Action Pack*. "On the other they feel that admitting to such worries by seeking medical help can be seen as a sign of weakness."

"Whether it's lumps in their genitals or the fact that they are feeling depressed, men are consistently less open when it

DEADLY LIFESTYLE

- Men live an average of five years less than women
- 50 per cent of the male population is overweight
- Two out of three have too much cholesterol in their blood
- About one in seven will have a mental health problem
- 92,000 men in England are killed by smoking each year - men who smoke are five times more likely to get cancer of the pancreas
- 60 per cent of the male population does not take enough physical activity to benefit their health
- 83,970 of the 154,842 who die of heart disease are men
- 24,290 men compared to 12,858 women, die of lung cancer
- Seven out of eight of the 3,100 suicides in England each year are men
- A fifth of all acute male admissions to hospital are alcohol associated



An early visit to the doctor can prevent a long stay in hospital.

According to statistics from the Health Education Authority, half the male population is overweight, one in 18 is obese and two out of three have too much cholesterol in their blood - all factors which increase the risk of heart disease. The result is that 83,000 men die of coronary heart disease, compared with 70,000 women. Lung cancer kills more people than any other form of the disease and it is usually caused by smoking. Each year 24,000 men die of it, double the number of women.

Skin cancer, now the second most common kind, is more usual among men and is more fatal to them than to women. The authority says this is because men are less likely to use sunscreen, thinking it "cissy" and unnecessary. Of the 158,600 who die each year from all forms of cancer, 82,500 are men and 76,000 are women.

One in seven men will experience a mental health problem in their lives, and 2,700 of the 3,100 suicides in England are men.

Heavy drinking is also a male failing. A fifth of all acute male admissions to hospital are associated with alcohol and a third of male casualty patients have blood alcohol above the legal driving limit.

A glimpse of the lifestyle which leads to ill health among men emerges from a

comes to talking about what worries them and less likely to seek professional help. Instead of making positive health choices, men's thinking seems to be dominated by negative factors brought on by fear, isolation and apathy."

Plans for the campaign were drawn up last November after doctors met Health Department officials to review statistics showing that men's unhealthy habits were thwarting targets to improve the overall health of the nation. The first draft was rejected

because it failed to make the message sufficiently powerful.

The drive by the Health Department, to be launched within the next few months, will seek to make men feel less macho and more responsive to their aches and pains. It will redouble efforts to make them stop smoking and drink less. Apart from reducing suffering, the campaign to make men healthier makes economic common sense. Because they tend to be iller when they eventually see their doctor, the cost of treating men is higher.



Under examination: men's macho attitudes make them less likely than women to visit their doctor when they are sick. When they finally do, their treatment costs more

survey conducted for the magazine *Men's Health*, published yesterday. This found that almost a half worry about their future often, a quarter hate their work and

three quarters said they would rather work than look after the home. A third of men over 35 drink alcohol every day, two out of five eat junk food at least three times a week and almost

two thirds think their weight is about right. National men's health week, sponsored by the magazine, runs until Sunday.

Leading article, page 23

Macho refusal to admit weakness is foolish and dangerous

THE campaign to make male health as much an issue as female health has to overcome the ingrained belief that it is a sign of weakness for a man to worry about it.

For centuries, men's work was not only arduous but dangerous: whether at sea, down the mines, in the foundries or on the battlefield, men died young and violently, and were expected to accept this as their lot in life.

There was also an underlying attitude that it was unmanly to complain when illness could be suffered in the comfort of the home, while contemporaries were being



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

blown to bits in some foreign jungle.

Men now die early not so often because they are shot on a battlefield, but because they are riddled with tensions and anxieties in the office and face a future at work as uncertain as any suffered by a merce-

nary. In the past, the men who lived longest were the clergy, many of whom had sole command, enjoyed the parson's freehold, had the chance to live a settled family life and take exercise, and did not work long hours.

While mention of disease

and illness is still probably regarded as women's talk in the more traditional circles, this is changing. Just as it is seen increasingly as foolhardy, almost antisocial, for women not to have breast screening and cervical smears, so it must be seen as unreasonable and foolish for men not to have regular blood-pressure checks and electrocardiograms.

Men are to be encouraged to think of the diseases which specifically affect them and to consider, for instance, the damage which an idle, slothful life coupled with a high-fat diet will wreak on their car-

diovascular system. The less squeamish may also be persuaded to contemplate the possibility that they have small nests of malignant, or premalignant, cells in their prostate and be persuaded, from the age of 50 onwards, to have the Prostate Specific Antigen test to make sure that all is well.

But early detection of disease is not enough. Steps need to be taken to reduce the incidence. Obesity is as much associated with cancer of the prostate in men as it is with cancer of the breast in women. Men are also more likely to suffer cancer of the lung and

the bowels than women, as well as having specific malignancies, such as cancer of the testes. They have to learn to feel their testes to detect any change in size, shape or consistency. In the way that women pay attention to their breasts.

Both sexes should understand the importance of immediately reporting any untoward findings and any change in bodily function whether in swallowing, sudden increase in indigestion, loss of weight, unexplained cough or hoarseness, or alteration in bowel habit.

Obesity in men leads to an

increase in diabetes and arthritis as surely as it does in women. It is not possible to return to a Trollopean life of fixed employment, job security, time for limitless exercise and well-organised meals.

If they have the will-power, men can take exercise daily, avoid becoming overweight, cut their fat intake, increase dietary fibre and learn to enjoy green vegetables.

It would be comparatively easy for even the most weak-willed to follow a Mediterranean diet and to relish its wine - two to four glasses a day - fish, fruit and olive oil.

Advisers criticised over peat bog move

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION by English Nature to downgrade protection at two internationally important peat bogs has angered environmentalists.

They say the Government's wildlife advisers in England are bowing to pressure from the compost industry and allowing what remains of Britain's ancient wild landscape to be devastated.

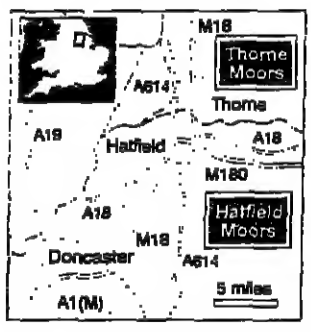
Levingtons, which produces peat-based compost from Thorne and Hatfield Moors, near Doncaster, has rights to remove peat predating their listings as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Richard Lindsay, one of

Britain's leading peat ecologists and a former scientist with the Government's wildlife advisers, said yesterday that the areas proposed for downgrading had been badly damaged by peat workings. However, there remained enough of the more than 4,000-year-old peat, including ancient pollen and other materials important for climate research, to justify their continued status as special sites.

"If they can get the listing for these areas downgraded then they will be able to claim that peat from these sites are not from these special sites."

Alan Shaw a spokesman for



Levingtons in Ipswich, which acquired the business from Fisons, confirmed the move. He said: "To my knowledge, all of the areas concerned are ones we are currently working. The moves are only formalising the fact that in our view they do not match the criteria for SSSI status."

In total, about 5 per cent of Thorne, a 2,000 hectare SSSI, and 50 per cent of Hatfield, a 1,300 hectare SSSI, are proposed for de-listing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Big Mac in victory for small business

A cafe owner has won a battle with the burger chain McDonald's to call his cafe Big Mac. When Daren MacDonald gave the cafe, in Lye, in the West Midlands, his nickname, Big Mac, McDonald's Restaurants Ltd claimed that the words were a trademark. Mr MacDonald has now been assured that the company will not take legal proceedings. A spokesman said yesterday that the company had been concerned that Mr MacDonald might be seeking free publicity. Mr MacDonald said: "Everyone knows me as Big Mac - it made sense to call the cafe after my nickname."

Phone crime

British Airways has banned staff from carrying personal mobile phones in Heathrow boarding areas because it says that some were being used to organise theft from luggage and duty-free supplies, and to give warnings when security staff approached.

High-wire fall

A high-wire performer is in a spinal injuries unit after falling 30ft into a circus ring. Andrea Tomko also broke her ankles and wrists in the incident at Blackpool Tower in front of an audience of 400 after a descent from the big top roof went wrong.

Prince on TV

The Prince of Wales will describe the work of the Prince's Trust in a 30-minute BBC1 programme on Sunday. The interview with Sir David Frost, filmed at Highgrove, the Prince's Gloucestershire home, marks the charity's twenty-first anniversary.

Gone fishing

A mineral company dug a fishing lake for the television angler John Wilson free of charge in exchange for 60,000 tons of gravel he found beneath his garden. The presenter of Channel 4's *Go Fishing* said the lake, near Norwich, would have cost £200,000.

Apology to don

Orlando Figes, a history fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, won an apology at the High Court from the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, which had wrongly said that he was at the centre of plagiarism allegations over his book *A People's Tragedy*.

Life in the brig

Fifty low-risk offenders will tomorrow board a floating jail moored at Portland in Dorset. Jack Straw announced. The £15 million HMP Wear is the first prison ship to be used since the hulks of the Victorian age. The five-deck vessel will house up to 400 prisoners.

Just the ticket

A traffic warden off work with a knee injury for more than a year has returned in an electrically driven tricycle. David Farnworth, 45, Lancaster, said: "I loved being outdoors and my supervisors looked at ways of keeping me on as warden."

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Antiques expert lied to police

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A LEADING antiques restorer accused of handling stolen Egyptian artefacts yesterday admitted lying to police. Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, 46, at first told detectives from Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Squad that an Egyptian figure in a photograph of him at work was a cheap imitation.

In fact it was a genuine artefact thousands of years old, Paul Dodgson, for the prosecution, told Knightsbridge Crown Court. Mr Dodgson claimed that Mr Tokeley-Parry "lied and lied" throughout police interviews after his arrest.

Mr Tokeley-Parry, of Winkleigh, Devon, told the jury he was forced to lie to protect his Egyptian supplier, Ali Ibrahim Farag. "I had no option given the situation I was in."

He denies three charges of handling stolen goods, including a bronze figure of the god Horus and false doors from the tombs of King Pepi and Heterkpa between June 1992 and December 1993. Earlier he told the court Egypt had no moral right to ban the export of artefacts because it did not have the expertise to preserve them. The trial continues.



Melanie Hall: missing
Melanie
hunt ends

BY STEWART TENDLER

INVESTIGATIONS into the disappearance of Melanie Hall a year ago are to be closed for lack of clues, police said yesterday.

Detective Superintendent Steve Livings, of Avon and Somerset police, said there had been no sightings of Miss Hall, 25, after she left the floor of a Bath nightclub. It is feared that she is dead. A team of 60 officers has been reduced to six: if no new clues emerge soon, one will have responsibility for the file, which will remain open. Mr Livings and Miss Hall's parents yesterday appealed for information.

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Aitken says disputed Ritz bill was cock-up or set-up

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN told the High Court yesterday that he was either the "victim of a set-up or a cock-up" over his disputed bill at the Ritz hotel in Paris. The Conservative former Cabinet Minister denies attending a clandestine business meeting with prominent Arabs, who paid his hotel bill, in 1993.



The Ritz hotel in Paris, where the Aitkens stayed in 1993.

Mr Aitken, 54, is suing *The Guardian* and Granada TV over claims that his business career and fortune depended on his connection with the Saudi Royal Family, and that he was involved in secret arms deals while a minister.

As the second week of his libel action began, he was shown an internal registration document from the hotel, which he denied seeing before. Dated September 17, 1993, it read: "Account with Ayes party, room 626-627 VIP. Method of payment: Account Ayes party."

The court has been told that Said Ayes, a Saudi businessman and aide to Prince Mohammed, son of the Saudi King, reserved a room for his old friend Mr Aitken. The

former MP, who lost his seat at Thanet South at the election, told Mr Justice Popplewell that his wife, Lolita, had paid the bill in cash.

But he said he had since failed to obtain another registration form, which under French law he would have signed, that would have made no mention of the Ayes account. "There is a small mystery here, which is that the Ritz, for some reason, have not produced the document."

"I have asked myself many times over the years whether I have been a victim of a set-up or a cock-up in the saga. I

incline towards the latter."

Charles Gray, QC, his counsel, had earlier asked the judge if he might subpoena the hotel owner, Mohamed Al Fayed, said to be a principal source for Granada and *The Guardian*, to produce the document. Mr Aitken said the Paris trip was a stopover en route for Switzerland where he and his wife were taking their daughter, Victoria, then 14, to a new school.

He said that he checked in at the Ritz at 10.30pm only to discover a message from Mr Ayes that his wife and daughter had already set off for

Switzerland. He said he produced a credit card but was told it was unnecessary.

He rejected a suggestion by George Carman, QC, for the defendants, that the credit card story was an invention, and said it was a mistake by the hotel that his bill was to go to Mr Ayes. Mr Aitken said his wife joined him in Paris two days later and he left her there to pay the bill in cash from \$3,000 (£1,800) she had drawn from the safe at the family home in Westminster.

Mr Aitken said he subsequently discovered that his wife had inadvertently paid only half the Ritz bill, the rest having been wrongly transposed at the hotel to the account of Abdul Rachman, Mr Ayes's nephew.

Mr Aitken then sent a cheque for £426 to Mr Rachman to cover the discrepancy. Only when *The Guardian* published its disputed article in April 1995, and Granada ran a *World in Action* programme called "Jonathan of Arabia", did he discover that the outstanding part had been paid by Prince Mohammed's treasurer.

The case continues.



Jonathan Aitken and his wife, Lolita, at the High Court. He admitted that she paid only half their hotel bill

Belgian mistress costs bank man 18 months in jail

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN ARCHITECT employed by the NatWest bank swindled £92,000 from his employers to pay for the upkeep of his wife and a Belgian mistress.

Wayne Simonds, 63, ran up enormous debts to keep the two women in stylish homes in Cheshire. Working with an accomplice, he claimed payment for bogus surveys and work that was never done.

While his unwitting wife, Sylvia, 55, stayed at home in Moulton, Simonds, who earned £37,500 a year as a regional architect for NatWest, flew to business meetings abroad with his Belgian mistress, who lived 15 miles away in Wilmslow.

The fraud was discovered in a routine investigation of his finances. Simonds lost his job, his mistress, Isabel Doyen, and had to move from Cheshire to Surrey and a £164-a-week job as a security guard. His wife, who had stood by him, works for a newsagent.

Judge Geake, sitting in Manchester Crown Court on Friday, jailed Simonds and his accomplice, Gary Sherman, of Ilford, east London, for 18 months each for conspiring to defraud NatWest. Both men admitted the offences.

Richard Marks, for the de-

fence, said that Simonds met Miss Doyen in the early 1980s in Belgium. She came to England to be with him and he soon found he was supporting her and his wife in separate homes and living well beyond his means.

"He became torn between two women, both of whom he loved," Mr Marks said. "It is difficult to imagine that this defendant with his background would have behaved in the way he did but for the emotional and financial pressure which his relationship with Miss Doyen brought."

He operated the fraud by contracting work from City and Hearn Communications, which was run by his friend Sherman. Anthony Russell, for the prosecution, told the court the company was a sham created to provide bogus invoices.

The judge told the men: "Both of you are plainly intelligent and resourceful men and men with your backgrounds do not normally resort to fraudulent activity without good reason. You were bound to be caught sooner or later."

Mr Marks said Simonds had ended his relationship with Miss Doyen three years ago.

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Mandelson takes centre stage in committee review

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S overhaul of the Government's policy-making machinery last night created a key role for Peter Mandelson, the campaign manager credited with masterminding Labour's election success.

The Prime Minister overlooked Mr Mandelson's non-Cabinet position to give him a place on 11 of the 20 ministerial committees, placing him at the heart of Cabinet discussion, even at a junior level, at discussions on important areas of Government policy makes him a pivotal player as the leadership tries to improve co-ordination of policy across departments.

Mr Blair also gave John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, a wide-ranging role at the head of four central committees, countering accusations that Mr Prescott would not have the influence of Michael Heseltine, his Tory opposite.

The list of Cabinet committees signals a number of changes of emphasis within Government, with the scrapping of four committees from John Major's premiership. Committees on nuclear defence policy, competitiveness and on the co-ordination and presentation of Government policies have been disbanded, together with the ministerial sub-committee on terrorism.

The Government's commitment to its devolution proposals is indicated by the creation of a new Scottish and Welsh devolution committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor.

Mr Blair's crusade for constitutional reform is also indicated in his chairmanship of a new constitutional reform committee to prepare changes to the House of Lords. Also new are a sub-committee on the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights in British law, chaired by Lord Irvine, and a ministerial group on food safety, to be chaired by David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Gordon Brown's influence at the centre of Government is emphasised by the decision to appoint him as chairman of the economic affairs committee, a post previously held by the Prime Minister. Mr Brown also chairs the public expenditure committee and the new welfare-to-work sub-committee charged with introducing Labour's employment policies.

Mr Prescott's chairmanship of four of the committees makes him an influential figure across the areas of the environment, home affairs, local government and London, where the Government will introduce a new authority.

Ann Taylor, the leader of the Commons, has been appointed chairman of the legislation committee and sub-committees on health strategy and drug abuse. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary who has special responsibility for women's issues, is chairman of the sub-committee on women's issues.

Mr Blair is chairing four of the committees, on constitutional reform policy, Northern Ireland, defence and overseas policy, and the Intelligence services. His chairmanship of the Northern Ireland committee reaffirms his commitment to following Mr Major's lead in tackling the peace issue in the province.

The Intelligence services committee, and the defence and overseas affairs committee, are traditionally headed by the Prime Minister.

Government figures made clear yesterday that issues dealt with under the four disbanded committees would be taken into the work of other established committees.

The new lists show little involvement in committee work by Cabinet members such as Clare Short, International Development Secretary, Gavin Strang, Transport Minister, and Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, who are restricted to committees focusing on their respective departments.



Gordon Brown meeting Jacques Santer, left, European Commission President, and Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Monetary Affairs Commissioner

Europe boost for Brown's jobs crusade

By JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN secured support from France and other European countries yesterday for his jobs action programme to boost employment across the European Union.

The Chancellor presented his programme for labour market flexibility and minimal regulation at a meeting with EU finance ministers at Luxembourg. The ministers also agreed to

Britain's attempt to amend the employment chapter, underlining the need for flexibility. The subject is being discussed at the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam.

Mr Brown said he agreed with France on the need to put employment at the heart of EU business but made clear that that was no excuse for "fiddling or fudging" the criteria for a single currency.

Although both centre-left governments have put employment and social issues at the top of the agenda.

Britain's market-friendly plans bear little resemblance to the more regulated Socialist proposals backed by Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

Nevertheless, in an attempt to show their determination to change EU priorities, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Mr Brown's French counterpart, France praised his proposals as "wise and measured" while the Chancellor supported Paris's clear electoral commitment to massive job creation.

The action plan includes the need

for more flexible labour markets, welfare reform, and help for small and medium-sized businesses. Mr Brown has already made clear that it would be a key theme during Britain's presidency of the EU.

The Chancellor wants a new task force to build up small and medium-sized enterprises by helping them to cut bureaucracy and reduce costs on cross-border trade. He also wants progress to complete the single market by removing barriers to firms from one country investing in another.

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Labour proposes catch-all offence of corruption

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Government proposed yesterday to make MPs criminally liable for bribery and end the practice of parliamentary self-regulation. Under the measures, set out in a consultation paper, those found guilty of corruption could be jailed for seven years.

As part of the "cleaning-up politics" initiative, a parliamentary committee of MPs and peers was announced yesterday to examine the question of parliamentary privilege. Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons, said yesterday that she did not believe this would infringe an MP's freedom of speech in Parliament.

The Government's tough approach to sleaze was evident in the tone throughout the paper issued yesterday by Mr Straw. There would be a single new catch-all offence of corruption. The presumption of corruption has hitherto been limited to gifts to anyone employed by the Crown, the Government or a public body, from a person holding or seeking a contract with them. The paper suggests that the presumption should apply to anyone where it could be shown that a person has received a gift "from someone who has an interest in the actions of the person in question".

The Government confirmed that for such a serious offence as corruption it was willing to contemplate a reversal of the traditional burden of proof in



Straw has issued consultation paper

criminal cases, whereby a person is considered innocent until proved guilty. The paper says: "This is a serious step to take and requires full justification." But the Government argues that in circumstances where people are expected to act impartially, they should order their affairs in such a way as to avoid any impression of corrupt activity.

The onus would be on the person to justify any questionable payment made to them.

The paper makes clear that one of the proposals under discussion is that any board or senior managers from a British company who authorised the use of bribes abroad to win contracts would be liable to prosecution.

The Home Office has set a deadline of August 31 for any views or reaction to the proposals and the intention is to bring forward a Bill in the Queen's Speech in November next year.

Lord Nolan, who chairs the Committee on Standards on Public Life, yesterday formally welcomed the proposals and confirmed that he would recommend a new offence of misconduct in public life as part of his report on local government.

As the legislation would not be retrospective, it could not be used against former MPs against whom allegations were made in the past.

Blair sees danger of preaching to Europe

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

Tony Blair is facing his first real political test at the Amsterdam summit this weekend - and there are still several major unresolved issues. His dilemma is how to demonstrate to other European countries that the British approach has changed and to the domestic audience that he can produce results.

His main impression so far from meeting other leaders is the difficulty of shifting the European agenda. He believes the Tory approach left zero goodwill towards Britain and argues that it is necessary now to offer an alternative vision of Europe, and not just an alternative vision of Britain. Hence, Gordon Brown's job creation plan at yesterday's meeting of European finance ministers. This is partly intended to show that Britain wants to make a success of European co-operation, "cutting with the grain of what people want", rather than just being negative over new proposals. Mr Brown won agreement that the new employment chapter would take account of the need for flexible labour markets and a trained and adaptable workforce. The key phrase, pushed recently by Mr Blair, is a "labour market responsive to economic change".

Mr Blair is wary of talk of him quickly taking up a leadership role. He is well aware of the danger of Britain being seen to preach and of pointing his finger at other countries. There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag, nor any more talk of Britain being part of a trio, with Germany

and France, in leading Europe. In particular, Mr Blair believes Britain should keep a low profile on monetary union since a strong public stand now could be counter-productive and would reduce Britain's influence in shaping whatever is agreed. He and Mr Brown will argue that their economic programme is necessary whether a single currency goes ahead or not, and is, indeed, essential if any monetary union is to succeed. His priority for Amsterdam is to secure a legal basis

There will be no Blair equivalent of the Thatcher handbag

for maintaining Britain's border controls which would withstand challenge in the European Court of Justice. This has been resisted by other countries, including the Dutch presidency, and is the main obstacle to agreement. This is linked with a desire to end the British opt-outs. Mr Blair believes "an opt-out mentality" reduces British influence. Instead, what Mr Blair would like is a system where Britain could join any new EU initiative when we want, rather than come in only if other countries agree. This is to ensure that any new

flexibility clause does not discriminate against those on the outside.

Other British aims are to ensure that police and the criminal law are kept as matters of intergovernmental co-operation, rather than brought within the remit of the Community and the European Court of Justice. Britain, with the support of several smaller states, also wants defence to remain primarily a matter for Nato, so the Western European Union should not be subordinated to the European Union. The national veto will also remain on foreign policy decisions, though there may be qualified majority voting on implementation, subject to objection by members. And Britain wants definite progress to be clear on quota hopping on fishing.

So Britain is not there yet. Mr Blair wants to avoid brinkmanship or raising the temperature too much at this stage. He regards the rows over fishing and BSE as object lessons in how not to conduct foreign policy. Mr Blair sees some signs of movement. But as John Major pointed out yesterday in probably his farewell Commons speech as Leader of the Opposition, the question is what will the balance be in any bargaining. What will Mr Blair have to accept or concede at the summit in return for his main priorities? He naturally believes there will be a deal, but knows how important it will be in shaping both his domestic and international standing.

PETER RIDDELL

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Tory leadership: endorsements are counted up as MPs prepare to vote

How contenders stand on day of reckoning

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rival camps in the Tory leadership contest have spent the past 24 hours trying to win round the 57 MPs who have failed to declare their support for any of the five candidates.

William Hague, who is expected to finish second tonight, enters the race with the most public endorsements. Kenneth Clarke, who is expected to top the poll, follows with 20 public endorsements but the level of his support is much higher.

Michael Howard, whose supporters claim he has edged ahead of Peter Lilley, has the fewest declarations of support.

A total of 107 MPs, including the candidates, have gone public. It leaves 57 to determine the outcome of the first ballot. Some, however, have not been telling the truth: the total number of MPs who have committed support privately takes the total to 176, whereas the number of Tory MPs is 164.

The Candidates:
John Redwood is the most uncompromising Eurosceptic. He is the only one to say "never" to a single currency. His most notable supporters include John Townend, chairman of rightwing 92 group, and Lord Tebbit.

Mr Redwood is standing on a populist Conservative platform and will seek to restore voters' trust in the party's stewardship of the health service by opposing the closure of popular local hospitals and major institutions such as St Bart's. Local education authorities will be ordered to direct more cash to the classroom.

He is standing as the only "clean pair of hands", being the one candidate who was not on the bridge when the ship went down on May 1. He will apologise for broken promises on taxation, VAT on fuel, and negative equity.

Michael Howard, former Home Secretary, seemed dead in the water after Ann Widdecombe's assault on his integrity. He refuses to list total number of endorsements.

Mr Howard has fought back as the heavyweight candidate on the right. He would seek to unite the party round his opposition in principle to a single currency because the present proposition is un-



THE SUPPORTERS: WHO'S PROMISED TO BACK WHOM IN THE FIRST BALLOT

John Redwood: proposer, Iain Duncan Smith; seconder, Angela Browning.

Supporters: Julian Brazier, Bill Cash, Howard Flight, Andrew Hunter, Oliver Letwin, Julian Lewis, Andrew Robathan, Lawrence Robertson, Marlon Rose, Sir Teddy Taylor, John Townend, David Wilshire, John Wilkinson, Nicholas Winterton.

Total public endorsements: 17. Expects 30 votes.

Kenneth Clarke: proposer, Michael Heseltine; seconder, Sir Norman Fowler.

Supporters: David Curry, Quentin Davies, Damian Green, John Gummer, Sir Edward Heath, Douglas Hogg, Tom King, Michael Jack, John MacGregor, Sir David Mace, Michael Mates, Sir Peter Lloyd, Keith Simpson, Ian Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris, Bob Walker, Shaun Woodward, Sir George Young.

Total declared: 20. Expects 45.

Michael Howard: proposer, Sir Michael Spicer; seconder, Tim Collins.

Supporters: Graham Brady, James Cran, David Faber, Liam Fox, David Lidington, Francis Maude, Desmond Swayne, John Taylor, Simon Burns, Christopher Chope, Sir Richard Body, Andrew Lansley and David Mackenzie.

Total: 15. Expects 34.

William Hague: proposer, Sir Peter Tapsell; seconder, David Heathcoat-Amory. Supporters: Michael Ancram, James Arbuthnot, David Atkinson, Peter Bottomley, Ian Bruce, James Clappison, Dr Michael Clark, Geoffrey Clifton Brown, Stephen Day, Alan Duncan, Nigel Evans, Roger Gale, Cheryl Gillan, James Gray, Nick Hawkins, Julie Kirkbride, Eleanor Laing, Tim Loughton, Sir Nicholas Lyell, Humfrey Malins, John Maples, Malcolm Moss, Archie Norman, Richard Page, James Paice, David Prior, Jonathan Sayeed, David Tredinnick, Tim Yeo.

Total declared: 32. Expects 38.

Peter Lilley: proposer, Gillian Shephard; seconder, Sir Patrick Cormack.

Supporters: Eric Forth, David Willetts, David Amess, John Bercow, Sir Michael Colvin, Nick Gibb, Philip Hammond, Gerald Howarth, Bernard Jenkin, Robert Kay, Piers Merchant, Richard Spring, Robert Syme, Andrew Tyrie, John Whittingdale, Nigel Widdows.

Total: 18. Expects 28.

workable. He demonstrated loyalty to John Major and would expect the same in return. His supporters argue his strongest point is that he is a formidable parliamentarian who could match Tony Blair at the dispatch box. Mr Howard's supporters believe he is the only candidate who

can beat Ken Clarke in the final round.

Peter Lilley is fighting as the unity candidate. Staunch Thatcherites such as Gerald Howarth are on his campaign team, as are Sir Tim Bell and Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare.

As social security secretary,

Mr Lilley won respect for handling of welfare reform. He promises a thorough review of policy. On Europe, he rejects endless theological debate over the single currency. He is committed to rebuilding mass membership of the Tory Party.

Kenneth Clarke, a powerful

debater in the Commons, is said by his supporters to be the man Labour fears most.

He has popular appeal in the country and among party activists, and is depicted as the man most capable of appealing to the lost Tory voters.

On the single currency he maintains that events have

justified his wait-and-see stance. He now supports a delay in Britain's entry.

Of all the candidates he has the most extensive experience of government, having held office since 1979. He has a record as an innovative minister, having introduced GP fundholding, and is seen as

one of the most successful post-war Chancellors.

William Hague, is the only candidate for those MPs who support the idea that the Tories must skip a generation to match the youthful appeal of Tony Blair.

He has support from across the party with Tim Yeo on the left, Michael Ancram in the centre and David Heathcoat-Amory and Lord Parkinson on the Eurosceptic right. He has staked his claim on appealing to the party outside Westminster. Mr Hague promises a Blair-style revolution: a two or three-year policy review with radical reform of the party structure. He aims to double the membership in two years and put agents in 375 target seats by next year.

On Europe he is opposed in principle to a single currency. He would make opposition to monetary union a cornerstone of the party's manifesto.

Time for a repeat of the drama in room 14

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

COMMITTEE ROOM 14 in the Commons has been the scene of some of the most dramatic episodes in modern-day politics. Tory MPs were called there to hear the result of the first ballot for the leadership in 1990 when Margaret Thatcher failed by four votes to win outright. It spelt the end of her premiership.

Today a far smaller number of Conservative MPs — the 164 survivors

of Labour's landslide — will file in to vote for the candidate they want to lead the party during its first period of Opposition for 18 years.

The executive of the 1922 Committee will meet at 9.30am. Thirty minutes later the MPs will assemble to hear Sir Archibald Hamilton, the 1922 chairman, give the results of the consultation process carried out among party activists. They do not get a vote this time, but next time they almost certainly will.

The MPs will have seven hours in

which to make their choice. Watched by a team of scrutineers, including representatives from each of the five camps, they will find a quiet corner, fill in their ballot paper and depart.

Voting ends at 5pm. MPs will return to the committee room at about 5.25pm to hear the result. No one expects today's vote to be conclusive. To succeed the winner would need a simple majority — at least 83 — and a 15 per cent lead over the nearest challenger. If there is no outright majority there will be a second ballot

next Tuesday, for which nominations will close at noon on Thursday. In theory new contenders could enter the race. It was at this point that John Major and Douglas Hurd joined in 1990. This time it seems more likely that one or two will drop out.

Next Tuesday a candidate securing a straight majority would win. The 15 per cent additional requirement disappears. But again it may not be conclusive. If so the candidates finishing in first and second place will go forward to a run-off two days later.

Downey favours new look at MPs' interests

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR GORDON DOWNEY has expressed support for an inquiry into whether there should be curbs on MPs' outside interests, even if this means they should have higher salaries.

In an interview in *Counsel*, the magazine of the Bar Council, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards says: "I certainly think the argument [that MPs should be paid more] is more balanced than I did some time ago. I was completely persuaded that MPs were able to have outside interests because they acquired outside experience that helped in the House."

But he goes on: "I now think there is quite a strong case for further consideration as to whether or not we would be better off with professional politicians without outside interests."

Sir Gordon also says that "it has been frustrating" that he was unable to publish his completed report on the cash-for-questions allegations against MPs before Parliament was prorogued, before the general election. "It would have been more satisfactory had it been possible to see the report published beforehand," he says.

Sir Gordon is implementing measures to help those who entered the Commons at the general election to stick to the rules and avoid the allegations of political "sleaze" that beset the last Parliament. A new Register of MPs' Interests is being compiled, and training and induction sessions are being held for newly elected MPs, to run alongside the advice Sir Gordon dispenses when approached.

He said: "There is a huge intake of new Members and I will attempt to offer them advice in time to prevent Members from stepping across the line which might lead to complaints."

IN PARLIAMENT

Foreign Office questions: Education (schools); Bill: remaining stages; backbench debate on road improvements to A464, in the Lords: debates on EU report on consumer guarantees; combating drug abuse in Scotland.

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**PEACE OF MIND
AS STANDARD?
THAT'LL BE THE
DAEWOO.**

Whalers aim to ease hunt ban

FROM JAN RAATH
IN HARARE

JAPAN and Norway are trying to "slip through unnoticed" amendments relaxing the hunting of whales while the world's biggest wildlife protection organisation is distracted by arguments over elephant conservation, according to Greenpeace, the environmental lobby group.

The allegation was levelled yesterday at the two countries as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) began its meeting in Zimbabwe's capital.

Tokyo and Oslo have listed five proposals to remove the minke whale, grey whale and Bryde's whale from the Cites Appendix One, which regards the species as threatened with extinction and bans all international trade, and to list them under a lesser category of restricted trade.

But Traffic, an organisation that carries out scientific research for Cites, has urged that the proposals be rejected. It found there were "serious shortcomings" in the ability of authorities in Japan, the largest market for whale meat, to control illegal imports.

Isabel McCrae, head of Greenpeace's delegation here, said the proposals were "a strategic attempt to manoeuvre the Cites parties into undermining the commercial whaling moratorium".

Japan's tradition of hunting whales has made the country the villain of the conference for most European and American animal welfare groups. The country is also named in a proposal by Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana as the recipient for exports of tusks from their stockpiles.

Despite Greenpeace's warning, the African elephant is set



Norwegians haul a five-tonne minke whale, caught off their country's northern coast, onto their vessel

again to overshadow proceedings as the three southern African countries try to win a partial lifting of the ban on the ivory trade.

But organisers of the 139-member United Nations body are irritated at the huge media exposure devoted to an animal that Cites believes is not endangered. Nobutoshi Akao, the chairman of the Cites standing committee, urged delegates to base their decisions

"not on emotion but on scientific decisions". Izgrev Topkov, its secretary-general, offered journalists a prize for writing about a threatened species not yet publicised, a remark seen as a plea to limit coverage of the elephant.

Cites, which lists nearly 40,000 species of mammal, reptile, bird, fish, insect and plant as threatened by international trading, has seen its meetings turn into a huge

attraction for media and wildlife charities. An unprecedented 300 foreign journalists are covering the meeting. Masai tribesmen, dressed in suits, are lobbying against a relaxation of the ivory trade, while a conference folder, made from elephant dung paper, pushes the opposite view.

The conference's appetite for documentation has grown to four million documents since the last meeting in 1994. Cites

officials say the voluminous German proposal to restrict trading of the beluga sturgeon in the Caspian Sea has exhausted its translation budget.

Cuba has proposed that it be allowed to sell its hawksbill turtles, prized for their shells, to Japan. Traffic acknowledges that Havana has imposed "very comprehensive" controls on fishing and trading of the hawksbill, classified as "critically endangered".

Britain seeks EU code on arms exports

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
AND EDWARD YATES
IN JAMAICA

BRITAIN wants to persuade its European partners to sign a new code of conduct on arms exports to prevent weapons from reaching regimes that might use them for internal repression.

While Britain is currently ahead of France in the league table of global arms-exporters, Tony Lloyd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday that the Government proposed to raise its

standards in selling arms abroad and wanted the European Union to follow suit.

Mr Lloyd's statement came after Bishop Carlos Belo of East Timor, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, urged Britain to restrict the arms trade. British weapons are reported to have been used in the conflict in East Timor, which has suffered from insurgency since Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese territory in 1975.

Before meeting Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, last night, the bishop said in a lecture sponsored by the Catholic aid agency:

"Please, I beg you, restrict still further the conditions under which this trade is permitted. Do not sustain any longer a conflict which, without these sales, could never have been pursued in the first place, nor for so long."

However, Mr Lloyd said that, despite a desire to tighten up on arms exports, the Government supported a strong British defence industry.

"We are one of the major arms exporters in the world but that status carries with it a responsibility, an obligation, to ensure that the arms trade is properly regulated," he said

during a seminar on controlling the arms trade, which was organised by Saferworld and the British American Security Information Council, two independent research organisations.

Mr Lloyd took up the theme first enunciated by Mr Cook in his policy mission statement in which he underlined the importance of human rights and the need to ensure that arms were not sold to regimes which had a record of abuse.

"We are all aware of concerns that some defence equipment exported from the UK in the past might have been used

for internal repression," Mr Lloyd said. One of the most controversial arms sales from Britain was the export of Hawk jets to Indonesia, which has been accused of rights abuses in East Timor. Bishop Belo's visit to London comes at a time of increasing violence there.

Mr Lloyd said the Government would press for greater disclosure of information on arms exports and transfers by all countries, and would try to strengthen the United Nations register of conventional weapons by including the sale of small arms.

Secret Israeli plan aims for 100,000 more settler houses

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

DETAILS of a secret contingency plan by Israel's Housing Ministry to construct another 100,000 homes for Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were published yesterday.

Yediot Aharanot, the Tel Aviv paper which obtained a copy of the secret document entitled *The Territories - Overall Planning*, said that the outline was recently submitted to Meir Porush, the Deputy Housing Minister, who "instructed that the plan be shelved for the time being and be used as a contingency plan in case the peace process is stopped".

The outlined construction would more than triple the number of existing homes, estimated at 40,000, in the existing 144 Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the Palestinians are hoping to create an independent state. The present number of Jewish settlers is between 144,000 and 160,000.

Last night, Moshe Eliaz, the

Housing Ministry spokesman, confirmed the plan's existence but claimed that it would remain dormant as long as peace talks with the Palestinians continued. "If the peace talks blow up, we can discuss it, but as long as there are negotiations - and we hope there will be - there is no reason to discuss such things," he said.

The leak coincided with confirmation that Israeli-Palestinian talks, which resumed on Sunday in Egypt for the first time in nearly three months, will continue under Egyptian diplomatic auspices in Israel on Thursday.

Osama el-Baz, the senior Egyptian envoy, is struggling to arrange a summit between President Mubarak of Egypt, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. The Palestinians have been demanding a halt to the construction of the settlement of Har Homa in Jerusalem as the condition of their participation.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Turkish hijackers give up

Cologne: The hijack of an Air Malta airliner bound for Istanbul with 81 people on board ended peacefully yesterday when two Turks surrendered at Cologne airport, releasing their hostages unharmed.

One of the hijackers, with what turned out to be fake explosives strapped to his chest, had demanded the release of the Turkish gunman, Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence in Italy for trying to assassinate the Pope in 1981. (Reuters)

Drug gang deal

Bogota: Colombia's three most powerful drug cartels have joined forces to halt legislation that would allow extradition of Colombian criminals, a move that the United States has repeatedly urged, the head of the national police reported. A fresh wave of widespread drug-related violence is expected following the deal between the leading drug mafias. (AFP)

Punjab killing

Lahore: A former Pakistani provincial minister, Iqbal Gurkhi, a candidate for Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in a by-election for the Punjab provincial assembly, was killed in Baghbanpura by gunmen after a car chase. Police said: "It is not yet clear if the murder was an act of terrorism or motivated by some enmity." (AFP)

Chechnya law

Moscow: President Maskhadov, the leader of the break-away Russian republic of Chechnya, has imposed Sharia (Islamic law) in an effort to restore order on his lawless new nation (Richard Beeston writes). The move follows a spate of kidnappings and bombings in the northern Caucasus.

Airliner stolen

Moscow: Two men are on the run after stealing a 120-seat jet airliner from a Russian airport in the southern Urals and flying it 545 miles across the border to the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. The jet was taken using fake documents and later found at a deserted airfield. (AP)

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30TH ANNIVERSARY

Kohl plans huge property sale to fill budget hole

HELMUT KOHL'S Government, beset with rumours of resignation and imminent collapse, is ready to embark on the biggest property sale since the war in an attempt to prop up the budget.

The sale of 110,000 flats and of government stakes in building societies that hold away over another 300,000 is expected to be clinched with one purchaser — the *Handelsbank* business daily tipped to raise DM5 billion (£1.5 billion). That, with the sale of DM10 billion of Telekom shares and new savings, might just be enough to close the holes in this year's budget.

But even if the gamble works, it

will not help Germany to come closer to meeting the Maastricht public deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Next year's budget, although not critical for entry to economic and monetary union, is already putting new strains on the Government.

According to some reports, Bonn has been considering selling its property to a British or American investment bank, but the most likely customer is regarded as the Veba energy concern, which has its own property subsidiary. One sale has already been agreed with Veba this year: a 58 per cent government stake in a company with about 39,000 flats was sold to it.

The national price of DM5 billion is low for the amount of property on offer: that is because of the dilapidated nature of many of the state holdings. The buildings include disused airport hangars, marshalling yards, Russian barracks in eastern Germany and polluted training grounds. Repair, renewal and clean-up costs would depress the value. So too would the long-standing rental contracts which would have to be honoured by the buyer. Even so, the scope of the proposed property deal is huge.

The sense that the Government is on the cusp of disaster was reinforced yesterday by reports, promptly denied, that the Chancellor threatened to resign no fewer than four times last week during negotiations with his coalition partners. Such threats are not new and are not usually taken very seriously: they are regarded as shots across the bows of the small Free Democratic Party (FDP), which is refusing to accept any tax rises.

The FDP, hovering only slightly above the 5 per cent minimum needed for parliamentary representation, has the most to lose from an early election. Nonetheless, to issue four ultimatums in a week would suggest, if true, that Herr Kohl is no longer in command of the situation.

He is certainly finding it difficult to hold the three horses of the Bonn

coalition together. The Bavarian Christian Social Union is calling more and more loudly for a delayed start to the euro: the FDP is refusing tax rises and has cut off the only reliable way of meeting monetary union targets; and even Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) are complaining about the incompetent management of public finances.

The Chancellor seemed to acknowledge the problem in a private speech to CDU deputies last week: "I know what it is like. You go back to your constituency parties and they ask you just one thing — what is this crap you are getting up to in Bonn?" Herr Kohl has been counting

on compromise within the coalition, an economic recovery next year, a job-creation drive and a Cabinet reshuffle — removing Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, from the firing line — after the summer break. These calculations are beginning to look complacent. Political advisers are now urging the Chancellor to consider the previously unthinkable: a grand coalition with the Social Democrats after a divorce from the FDP.

Such a coalition, in theory, could agree on increases in petrol tax and value-added tax. But it would be of only limited appeal to the Social Democratic Party (SPD), which scents the Government's weakness.

European borders blocked by lorry drivers

By ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUNDREDS of British lorry drivers were caught up in a European day of action yesterday by their continental counterparts demanding better pay and conditions, with traffic disrupted from Germany to Portugal.

French drivers, often co-operating with European neighbours, parked lorries across the Spanish, Italian, German, Belgian and Swiss borders. Spanish drivers blocked three crossings with France and one with Portugal as part of the push to secure new European Union rules limiting working hours and standardising benefits.

The French federation of road haulage companies, representing employers, denounced what it called an illegal "eurostrike". It said the authorities had refused pleas to intervene. "Once again, we've seen that the illegal use of force is the best way of pushing through demands."

Most blockages in the 24-hour stoppage were in France. British hauliers were prevented from boarding ferries at Cherbourg in Normandy and St Malo in Brittany. French drivers were also carrying out Operation Escargot — travelling at a snail's pace to hold up foreign lorries.

Near Strasbourg in eastern France, French and German drivers set up a barrier on a bridge over the Rhine. More than 35 main roads, including the A10 motorway outside Paris, were also blocked, and at the Mont Blanc tunnel, linking France and Italy, about 500 foreign lorries were



Lorries choke the Franco-Swiss border near Basle yesterday as part of the Europe-wide day of action by drivers' unions who want a maximum working week of 48 hours

held up. French lorry drivers were allowing their compatriots through, but were stopping all foreign drivers.

However, one British driver, Mick Rhodes, broke through the blockade in his 40-ton lorry after being held up for more than 12 hours. Mr Rhodes, 34, from Bradford, said: "I inched my way near to the front of the queue and

when the barrier came up to let some French lorries through, I just put my foot down and took a run at it. They tried to put the barrier down again, but I wasn't stopping!"

John Daire, the managing director of Bradford-based Sanita Shipping, for whom Mr Rhodes works, said: "The French are holding everyone

to ransom — again. It's crazy. Fortunately, this dispute is due to last 24 hours only."

The most serious recent French stoppage happened last November, when many British lorry drivers were stuck for more than ten days, while another blockade hitting many companies' profits also happened earlier this year.

The unions claim that drivers often spend 70 hours a week on the road, and want the EU to impose a 48-hour maximum working week. Militant French drivers seized the opportunity to renew claims dating from their 12-day strike at the end of last year when they set up dozens of roadblocks and delayed British lorries at most cross-

Channel ports. French unions said that they were striking for a "harmonisation" of working conditions across Europe. They also demanded the implementation of a French government decree designed to ensure their members are paid during rest time.

The French haulage employers said the decree was "totally unrealistic" and

amounted to "collective suicide". The decree was signed at the end of the November strike, which left British road haulage companies claiming £5 million compensation from the French authorities because of their failure to lift the road blocks. Claims from other European operators, including German and Spanish, total £85 million.

David's lips to give museum kiss of life

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE normally moribund world of Italian art museums and galleries has been startled by an imaginative scheme by the Palazzo Pitti museum in Florence to market a range of 500 craftsman-made items inspired by some of the greatest Renaissance masterpieces.

Despite critics' horrified cries of "vulgar commercialisation", from the end of this month visitors to the gallery will be able to examine and handle the velvet cap worn by Raphael in his self-portrait; the pearl pendant that adorns the neck of Maddalena Strozzi of the Florentine banking family, in Raphael's painting of her; and a dinner service copied from plates and dishes set out on the table in Pontormo's *The Supper at Emmaus*.

One of the most sought-after, and oddest, items is likely to be a marble reproduction of the sensual lips of



Reproductions of Raphael's cap and the lips of Michelangelo's David will go on sale next year

Michelangelo's David. Art lovers will not be able to buy the objects until next year, when the rules governing the management of Italy's state-run art museums are due to be revolutionised. A law drafted in 1993 but still not implemented provides for the liberalisation of museum regulations, allowing gallery managers to open restaurants, cafés, bookshops, souvenir

shops and other profit-making enterprises. At present, as tourists are often dismayed to discover, such facilities are either limited or absent in Italy.

Walter Veltroni, the former Communist Culture Minister who is also Deputy Prime Minister, has said: "All you can get in many museums is a badly produced postcard." He has encouraged private invest-

ment in the under-resourced museum sector, one of Italy's main earners of tourist revenues, and has vowed to push the delayed law through parliament by next year at the latest.

Officials in Florence said that prices for the Renaissance collectors' items had not been set. The Palazzo Pitti, which by the nearby Uffizi Gallery contains one of the world's greatest collections of Renaissance art, hopes that sales will bring in extra annual income of nearly £100 million, according to *Corriere della Sera*.

Other items to be made available include crystal perfume-bottles inspired by Leonardo Da Vinci's *Annunciation*; white silk shoes of the kind worn by the figure of Spring in Botticelli's *Primavera*; and a range of napkins and tablecloths based on the floral background behind his *Venus*, and the glass goblet that is held up by Caravaggio's Bacchus.

Airstrip under scrutiny for the bounty

Wellington: Pitcairn Island is debating joining the aviation age by building an airstrip. Chris Shute, the Deputy Governor, said yesterday. Pitcairn, 1,340 miles southeast of Tahiti, will be Britain's last interest in the Pacific region when Hong Kong is returned to China at the end of the month.

Mr Shute, who is also First Secretary at the British High Commission in Wellington, has just returned from a visit to the 50 people who remain on Pitcairn. He said that an airstrip would allow the island to attract affluent tourists.

The islanders are descendants of some of the crew who in 1789 mutinied against Captain Bligh on board HMS *Bounty*. Eight mutineers settled on the island with a group of Polynesian women after visiting Tahiti. (AFP)

The Rock to ask for 'Guernsey' status

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

GIBRALTAR'S Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, will ask for a new "Guernsey-like status" for the colony at a meeting next month with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Caruana, who was in New York to address the United Nations decolonisation committee, said the formal proposal would be made to Mr Cook next month. The aim was "to strengthen and modernise Gibraltar's historic ties to the United Kingdom, as well as to give to the people of Gibraltar their right to self-determination".

Although full details have yet to be worked out, the change would spell an end to Gibraltar's 284-year legal status as a British Crown Colony. Responsibility for the Rock's affairs would shift from the Foreign Office to the Home

Office, and the Governor's post would be abolished.

Mr Caruana said: "Our aim is to take Gibraltar into a new era and to end the anachronism of its present situation. We wish to move from being a British colony to being a British dependency, in the manner of Guernsey."

According to Mr Caruana, both Douglas Hurd and Malcolm Rifkind, the former Conservative Foreign Secretaries, had welcomed the idea when put to them informally.

Yesterday Mr Caruana revealed that the Labour Government had also reacted "very positively". He said: "We expect them to treat it as an important component of their general package of constitutional reforms."

Leading article, page 23

Dilemma for Jospin as the Left pursues pay rise

By ADAM SAGE

LIONEL JOSPIN, the French Prime Minister, came under concerted pressure from his Communist allies yesterday to raise the minimum wage and shelve plans to modernise the financially troubled state transport sector.

The Communist action signals the difficulties facing M Jospin as he tries to find a path between the conflicting demands of French labour and his European partners.

His election win has spurred hopes of wage rises among workers frustrated by four years of austerity from centre-right Governments. But with 4.2 million people employed by the state sector, any wage rise would inflate the public deficit and make it more difficult for France to meet the criteria for economic and monetary union.

The need to appease Bonn's fears on a single currency without disappointing his left-wing electorate explains M Jospin's delay in setting a clear European policy.

Robert Hue, leader of the Communist Party, which has three ministers in M Jospin's Socialist-led Government, wants a 10 per cent rise in the minimum wage. That would take it from Fr 6.406 (£674) a month to more than Fr 7.000 (£737).

M Hue's call was echoed by Louis Vianet, head of the Communist-led General Works Confederation, which has the ability to paralyse France as in December 1995. Yesterday, he suggested that he was prepared to back wage demands with strike action.

Although M Jospin has diluted his campaign pledge to increase salaries, he is likely to accept Communist demands for a higher minimum wage. The markets worry how much that rise will be. The Communist presence at the centre of public life was underlined when Jean-Claude Gayssot, 52, the Transport Minister, said he wanted to halt reform of the SNCF railway network which lost Fr15.2 billion last year, and the troubled state airline, Air France, which is seeking privatisation.



Hue wants a 10 per cent minimum wage increase

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30TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERS? THAT'LL BE THE DAEWOO.

US prepares to tackle 'super-killer' germ

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN health authorities are holding emergency meetings this week to consider how to meet the threat of a new strain of the *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium, found to be resistant even to vancomycin, the powerful antibiotic of last resort.

Although the strain has not yet been detected in America, its recent appearance in a four-month-old boy in Japan has caused considerable alarm in the United States.

S. aureus, "golden staph", is potentially the most serious of all infections acquired in hospital. Before antibiotics, *S. aureus* was one of the most deadly germs. It still kills about 70,000 American patients a year. It is most commonly spread between patients from skin to skin, usually by hands of hospital staff.

The excessive use of antibiotics appears to have made bacteria more resistant than ever, particularly in intensive care units. Dr Alexander Tomasz, an antibiotics expert at New York's Rockefeller University, said: "The inten-

sive care unit is the most infectious place in the world when it comes to antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

Studies have found that 39.4 per cent of "golden staph", which causes blood infections and pneumonia, is resistant in intensive care

units to methicillin, the standard antibiotic, compared with 31.2 per cent elsewhere in hospitals; 79.7 per cent of *S. epidermidis* bacteria, which cause skin infections, are resistant to methicillin in intensive care units.

Antibiotics kill bacteria by

demolishing their protective cell wall. To fight back, germs have developed a gamut of tricks, including ways to make their cell walls impenetrable. This was what Japanese doctors found recently, at Tokyo's Juntendo University. Keiichi Hiramatsu, a bacteriologist, reported a new strain of "golden staph" with walls so thick that even vancomycin, the formidable "super-antibiotic", failed to penetrate them.

Dr Hiramatsu was able to overcome the strain only by using arbekacin, an antibiotic which is not licensed for use in Western countries. He found that the new strain's cells produced wall-building proteins much faster than ordinary cells, thus equipping them to withstand and survive an antibiotic battering.

London: The Public Health Laboratory Service says that vancomycin-resistant *S. aureus* has not yet been detected in Britain. "If it is confirmed, it is a serious development," a spokesman said, "but there are other drugs that can treat it."

Bacteria prove fatal to the old and infirm

BY DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THE *S. aureus* bacterium is responsible for many wound infections in hospital, as well as the boils, carbuncles and abscesses of general practice. *Staphylococci* may also cause bronchitis, pneumonia, osteomyelitis, gastroenteritis and can even attack the sac around the heart, causing a fatal endocarditis.

Usually in healthy patients *staphylococcal* infection is localised to a boil or abscess and the patient recovers once this has been drained. If the

infection is severe antibiotics are needed.

Infections resistant to antibiotics are particularly liable to cause fatalities in patients debilitated by age or some other condition or drug that has suppressed their natural immune system. In hospitals every effort is made to prevent infection from spreading by strict barrier nursing of the patient and by frequent checks on all the staff to make certain that they have not become carriers.



Sitaram Kesri, of the Congress Party in India, in an ebullient mood last night as his party members cast their vote for the party president. It is only the third time in 50 years that such an election has been held. In the past,

Indian party picks leader

the party leader was simply anointed by the most powerful — and therefore most

powerful — Congress members. But this year the federal Election Commission ordered all parties to hold organisational elections. Mr Kesri is expected to win when results are announced on Thursday. (AP)

Lawyers vie to pick tobacco trial jury

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JURY selection in the "tobacco trial of the century", in which a former air stewardess is suing the makers of Marlboro cigarettes for \$5 billion (£3 billion), is proving to be a sociologists' dream-come-true.

Lawyers for Norma Broin, the plaintiff, are battling their counterparts from the tobacco industry in an attempt to secure a jury most amenable to their particular case. In their ideal sociological "photo-fit", the former have expressed a preference for mothers who have been to college. The latter have plumped for the white American male.

Mrs Broin argues that years of passive smoking in flight cabins gave her a virulent form of lung cancer, while the tobacco industry ripostes by saying that there is no link between cancer and the inhalation of other people's smoke. Her lawyer, Stanley Rosenblatt, believes that since college-educated mothers are likely to have a "better understanding of the dangers of smoking" as well as a distaste for large corporations, their case would be served better by such "types" on the jury.

Lawyers for Philip Morris, however, want a majority of white men on the jury, preferably specimens with little formal education. A spokesman said: "Such men are likely to have an instinctive understanding of the key issues here. They are not viscerally against freedom, personal choice, profits and a good cigarette."

Not surprisingly, jury selection is proving arduous for Robert Kaye, the Dade County circuit judge, who is conducting the trial. So far, he has pleased the tobacco industry by dismissing a number of nurses from the jurors' pool, as they might be expected to have an "anti-tobacco bias". As if to compensate for the disappointment in the Broin camp, he also dismissed a white man in his thirties who described the lawsuit as "ridiculous".

The judge, a former smoker, has also ordered that the courthouse and jury room will have their "No Smoking" signs taken down once the trial commences. He said: "I don't want those signs up there. They're coming down because they could be prejudicial."

Judge Kaye added, however, that jurors, and those attending the trial, would be informed verbally that smoking was not permitted.

150 killed in China landslide

Beijing: Four villages in China's southwestern Sichuan province were swept away by a landslide, leaving at least 150 people dead, a local official said yesterday.

"We no longer have any hope of recovering survivors," said Gao Mingjie, a Meigu county official. He added that three people had been confirmed dead and 147 were missing after the landslide struck in the early hours of last Thursday.

The torrent of mud and rocks turned parts of the four villages in the mountainous Yangshanzhou region into a lake of mud, he said. Eighty-four houses were destroyed and 223 damaged, he added. Those left homeless had been moved to shelters in neighbouring areas. (AP)

Delhi: An estimated 50 people were killed yesterday in a series of landslides in the Indian Himalayan state of Sikkim, the Press Trust of India said. Pawan Kumar Chamling, the state's Chief Minister, said the death toll was likely to rise because an unknown number of people were feared buried. (Reuters)

Kennedy says sorry for broken marriage

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

JOSEPH KENNEDY, the son of the late Robert Kennedy, has apologised publicly to his former wife for failing to make their marriage work.

Speaking at a Democratic Party rally in Salem, Massachusetts, Mr Kennedy, who is battling to secure his party's nomination for the Governor's post next year, also apologised on behalf of his brother, Michael, who has been accused of sex with an under-age babysitter.

More than 2,000 astonished delegates were told by Mr Kennedy: "I had a marriage that didn't work out. I can't tell you, and I can't put into words, how sorry I am about that. I said things that I wish I'd never said, and I did things I wish I had never done. I've told you, I've told Sheila [his former wife], I've told anyone who cared, how sorry I am."

The theatrical outpouring of regret comes only weeks after publication of a book by Sheila Rauch Kennedy, his former wife, castigating his efforts to be granted an annulment by the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr Kennedy, a congressman, said of his brother: "On the matter of [Michael], I am so very sorry, so very sorry, for what has happened to the babysitter's family. I extend to them the deepest apology that I can say. I love my brother, I will always love my brother, and I will stand with my brother."

Michael Kennedy has been accused by Maria Verocchi, now 19, of having had an affair with her when she was 14 years old. The daughter of a family close to the Kennedy clan, she had then been working as a babysitter with Michael's children.

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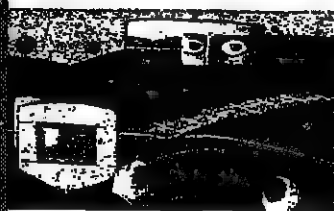
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Brutality is law in aftermath of Sierra Leone coup



Paz Zamora: turned back on revolution

Bolivia's old foes make up to govern

By GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA
CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER right-wing military dictator yesterday shook hands with his one-time foe, a former left-wing guerrilla movement activist, to form the unlikely coalition which will make up Bolivia's next Government.

General Hugo Banzer Suárez, 71, who leads a small, right-wing party and won a majority in the general election, struck an alliance with Jaime Paz Zamora, the former president and leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, during a "national reconciliation" ceremony in La Paz yesterday. "The old rightwinger and the former revolutionary have decided to get together in an effort to unite the chaotic and poverty-stricken country," said a Western diplomat.

Señor Paz Zamora was part of an underground left-wing movement opposing General Banzer's military regime. He has denounced the general several times in the past for ordering his assassination. But the former revolutionary, who says the Latin American Left has to follow European socialists, has unexpectedly decided to join forces with the general because "he has also reformed his ways". General Banzer, who took power by force in Bolivia 26 years ago and whose seven years in office were marked by brutal repression, has made a comeback via the ballot box. He won a 25 per cent majority from the country's 3.2 million electorate, capturing the "protest vote" against the liberal reforms of the outgoing President Sánchez de Lozada. Both Señor Sánchez de Lozada and Señor Paz Zamora won 16 per cent of the vote. During General Banzer's dictatorship between 1971 and 1978, an estimated 200 people were killed for opposing his junta.

A THIEF had the misfortune to be caught by one of Freetown's hastily improvised anti-looting squads yesterday. Life is cheap in Sierra Leone's capital, and the city's remaining populace seemed to express little beyond passing curiosity when the man was shot dead on the spot, and only mild surprise when his body had its hands, feet and legs cut off. The dismembered ensemble was left on display in the street as a warning.



Life is cheap in Freetown, where many crimes are committed by regular troops, Anthony Loyd reports

while they were being chased by an anti-looting squad. The falling cables then killed by electric shock the survivors of the crash, drenched as they were in their haul of oil. The civilians who have chosen to stay express mixed feelings towards the coup leaders. Most voice suspicion about the new military junta, yet are united in their hope

of civil cynicism towards the latest situation. One verse reads:

At the blast of rockets
Presidents did flee!
Onward People's Army
On to victory!
Corporal Foday Sankoh
Told you to write,
Raping, looting, burning
All throughout the night!

¶ All this will be dust in days if Nigeria tries anything. Things don't look good

that the coup may be the only chance to finish the war with the RUF: merely a bitter stage in the road to democracy. A sense of humour seems to be as strongly entwined as barbarity in Sierra Leone's national psyche and is usually present in any political discourse. Monday's edition of *For di People*, the capital's leading independent newspaper, published a new version of *Onward Christian Soldiers* for its readers, giving a clear indication of the degree

Everyone shares the opinion that a military intervention by Nigeria to restore the ousted President Kabbah will lead to a greater conflict. The AFRC fighters are extremely well armed and determined to hold the capital at all costs.

"We are prepared to negotiate, but we are not, under any circumstances, prepared to give Freetown to the Nigerian forces," Commander Leather Boots, one of the coup leaders, said yesterday.

A contemporary of the coup leader, Major Johnny Paul Koromah, Commander Leather Boots was a man of imposing stature. He tapped his walking stick periodically on the toe caps of a magnificent pair of cowboy boots. By Freetown's standards his name was conservative. Two other commanders are called Mosquito and Superman.

"We outnumber and outgun the Nigerians," he said. "We hold all the high ground. We will not attack them pre-



A man armed with a machinegun patrols the tense streets of Freetown yesterday

emptively, but if they attack us, they shall be very sorry. And at this moment all we are receiving is reports of Nigerian reinforcements moving into Sierra Leone. This is not, and never shall be, a Nigerian colony." Behind him a group

of his men clustered on a pickup truck. Armed with every type of infantry hardware, each man wore wraparound sunglasses. A small monkey chattered away on the vehicle's roof, perched on top of a mounted grenade launcher.

"You see all this around you?" Commander Leather Boots asked, pointing at the capital's coastal sprawl. "This will be dust within days if Nigeria tries anything with us. And at this moment things are not looking good."

Claim by rebels for money to step down

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

SIERRA LEONE'S coup leaders have asked for cash in return for standing down, a member of the deposed Government said yesterday.

James Jonah, the country's Ambassador at the United Nations, said the request for a "monetary payment" of an undisclosed amount was made in negotiations on the restoration of the elected President Kabbah, overthrown in a military coup last month.

The internationally recognised Government believes the coup, launched by low-ranking army officers headed by Major Johnny Paul Koromah, has been "hijacked" by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which signed a peace agreement with President Kabbah last November after a six-year guerrilla war.

The military junta allowed RUF fighters into the capital, Freetown, to repel a Nigerian attack and, in the words of one diplomat, the "RUF is now calling the shots".

Mr Jonah said President Kabbah had accepted the initial British-Nigerian-US initiative to end the rebellion by accepting the coup leaders' demands to redress army grievances and granting them amnesty. But the RUF apparently vetoed the plan.

He said President Kabbah would now co-operate with Ghana's effort to negotiate his return to power, because he feared heavy casualties if Nigeria and other West African countries launched a military assault. President Kabbah has emphasised, however, that he cannot accept a settlement that does not restore the Government.

Congo fighting traps Oxfam staff

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRITISH aid worker trapped in Congo Brazzaville told yesterday how Western charity staff became caught up in a coup attempt, with fighting between government and rebel soldiers raging around his hotel for days.

Richard Bartlett, 27, a Cambridge graduate and former Royal Engineer, was among four Oxfam engineers sent to Brazzaville to set up water supplies for refugees fleeing Kinshasa, capital of the neighbouring former Zaïre, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. Instead, they found themselves in the middle of Congo Brazzaville's own civil war after a militia seized the centre of the capital in an attempted coup against President Lisouba at the end of last week.

Mr Bartlett, whose botanist great-great-grandfather, Sir John Kirk, explored Central Africa with Dr David Livingstone in the 1860s, is trapped in the Cosmos Hotel with Jaap Vermuelen, a Dutch Oxfam worker. Two other staff, Phil Atwell, 56, an experienced aid worker from Bootle, Merseyside, and Inamel Hague, a Bangladeshi, are in the charity's office, nearer the fighting.

Speaking by satellite telephone yesterday, Mr Bartlett said the city had been cut in half by rival forces. "It is only a matter of time before the hotel gets hit. We are desperately hoping French or American troops will be able to cross the front lines to reach us."

He said gunmen with AK47s came into the hotel on Sunday to tell them that they were under rebel control. "They took our four-wheel drive vehicles so we have no transport."

He said his group were on the beach when fighting began on Thursday. They had been trying to organise water supplies for refugees crossing the River Congo north of the city. The intense fighting forced them to retreat to the hotel.

Mr Bartlett said the United Nations tried to get them out on a convoy on Thursday but the lorry sent to get them was stolen at gunpoint.

Ian Bray, of Oxfam, said all four had worked for the charity for only a few weeks. "It is ironic that, until a few days ago, Brazzaville was the safe city for people fleeing Kinshasa. Now the situation is reversed. The best policy is for them to keep their heads down."

Mr Bartlett's father John, a consultant neurologist at King's College Hospital, London, said he and his wife, Cilla, were proud of their eldest son. "We are just hoping he gets out of this safely."

□ Kinshasa: A shell fired during fighting in Congo Brazzaville landed in central Kinshasa. No one is believed to have been hurt. (Reuters)

outbreak of violence early yesterday. The fighting, between President Lisouba's forces and followers of Denis Sassou Nguesso, his Marxist predecessor, flared in the run-up to June 27 elections.

The first of 300 French troops sent as reinforcements for the 400-strong contingent already in Brazzaville arrived from their Central African Republic base yesterday.

Witnesses said bodies of fighters and civilians littered the streets after the latest

French fly out foreigners

Paris: French troops yesterday began evacuating foreign nationals from heavy fighting in Brazzaville. Flying 450 people out of Congo Brazzaville to neighbouring Gabon (Adam Sage writes). The move was ordered by Paris after reports that hotels had been hit by mortar shells.

Witnesses said bodies of fighters and civilians littered the streets after the latest

Traditional bakers declare war on 'bagel vandals'



Sugary confections are passed off as bagels, purists say

NEW YORK'S bagel purists, who yield little to wine snobs in the art of being sniffy, are rumbling their way to full-blown revolt.

Tired of seeing their art demeaned by "fake bagels" made with such ingredients as apples, brown sugar, cinnamon, walnuts, raisins and vanilla, the city's traditional bagelmakers are fighting back. There is talk of a nationwide campaign for "real bagels".

Jim Robertson, the owner of Bagel Oasis in the Queen's district, describes the latest bagel-come-lately ("Dutch Apple Bundt-Cake Streusel Bagel" sold by a sandwich chain)

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

in the following glowering terms: "That's not a 'bagel': that's an abomination." Mr Robertson, and other traditional bagel makers, are appalled by the spongy, sugary confections that "bagel vandals" seek to pass off for the real thing.

Traditionalists insist that *un was* bagel should have a slightly sour taste, and be made by boiling the sourdough before baking. "These new bagels don't even have a crust," cries Kiti Phongtankeul, the Thailand-born owner of Hot Bialys, another New York bagel legend. Mr Phongtankeul blames the de-

cline on a new menace called the rack oven. He says: "Those ovens steam bagels rather than boil them. It saves time, but believe me, it makes a lousy bagel."

The oven was introduced in the early 1980s. Yuppies queued to get their fix, and the rack oven, which can steam and bake enormous batches, was seized upon by profit-hungry bakers. The result is a puffy, over-sized product, with little charm and chewiness. Walt Schieroth, of the American Institute of Baking, says: "Today's bagels are the size of Texas. What happened to the standards here?"

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Let's do lunch

Jason Cowley charts how things have changed for the generation of women for whom the midday meal is a vital part of the day

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Ladies who lunch was once a byword for twinsets and pearls, for worthy charity gatherings in the country, for tombolas and raffles. The frivolous Eighties changed all that. Doing lunch became as much about being seen at the right places and keeping up with gossip as about eating out. For many affluent young women, it was also a prelude to shopping: something to do between going to the gym and that night's cocktail party.

Joe's Cafe in Drayton Avenue, off Brompton Cross, was a particular favourite because it was handily placed opposite Joseph, the style emporium of the Eighties.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was an influential social luncher, although her haunt was San Lorenzo, the Knightsbridge trattoria whose Italian proprietor, Mara Berni, became something of a mother-confessor to the Princess. Like most lunching ladies, the Princess never ate much: her favourite dish being a salad washed down with a glass of Perrier.

"The ladies who lunch never eat very much," says a manager at Joe's, 90 per cent of whose lunchtime customers are women. "Salads, risotto, some fish and perhaps pasta are what the ladies eat. Our alcohol sales are low at lunchtime, too. The ladies drink lots of sparkling mineral water."

Eve Pollard, Eighties power-luncher and former Editor of the then *Sunday Express*, says: "In the Eighties I remember ladies used to go to San Lorenzo in the little street where Diana was often seen. They would go to lunch after, say, having been to the gym or the hairdresser and as a prelude to doing the shopping. It was all about fun and frivolity."

The recession made eating out at lunchtime unfashionable, and when women began lunching again, they mostly

did so for business reasons. Pollard says: "Now women lunchers are more work-orientated, although, of course, social lunching goes on. There is certainly less food and alcohol consumed in the Nineties. Everyone is watching their calories. The ladies who regularly lunch are easy to spot because they all wear designer suits."

Paul Abes, of Christoph's restaurant in Chelsea, draws a distinction between those who lunch for professional reasons (the majority) and those for social ones (a vocal, ostentatious minority). "Of course, lunching for fun was an Eighties thing, but it's making a comeback," he says. "You

cheer parties. But now everyone is so busy and there are so many new restaurants opening that they would rather eat out than entertain at home. "There is still a thriving lunching circuit in the country, where ladies go to each other's homes," says Lewis. "But in the city most women lunch for business reasons."

She says the most influential lunchers include: Carla Powell, wife of Baroness Thatcher's former adviser, Sir Charles; Kimberley Fortier, publisher of *The Spectator*, who is a regular at the Groucho Club in Soho; Gail Rebeck, chairman and chief executive of Random House and wife of Labour's campaign

strategist Philip Gould; Barbara Amiel, columnist and wife of Conrad Black; Josephine Hart, novelist and wife of Maurice Saatchi; fashion star Isabella Blow and Isabelle Goldsmith. They tend to congregate at the same places: The Ivy, The Square in Bruton Street, any Conran concept eatery, Le

Caprice, Arlington Street, Joe's, Harry's Bar, and "anywhere with an SW1 or SW5 postcode". Dress is fashionably smart — dark, tailored suits, long skirts with discreet slits, fitted jackets.

Among the most enthusiastic of the new generation of younger lunchers are the It-girls such as Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, Tamara Beckwith, Letitia Cash and Normandie Keith. When they are in town, they lunch at Daphne's and The Collection, both in South Kensington, or at Joe's and Vingt-Quatre on the Fulham Road. Their clothes are cut to reveal their year-long sunbaths.

Over in west London, the Portobello Princesses — Tania Kinderley, Jade Jagger, Kate Chancellor — reject what novelist Kinderley calls that "whole precious Daphne's lunching thing", preferring to lunch in more inclusive places where they can wear jeans, Doc Martens and tight white T-shirts — 192 in Kensington Park Road, Notting Hill, is their haunt. Patsy Kensit held her hen night there: other regulars include Mariella Frostrup, Stella McCartney and Meg Matthews, wife of Oasis frontman Noel Gallagher.

Tania Kinderley used to be a regular there but she now prefers the more discreet surroundings of Osteria Basilico, a bohemian Italian. "Everyone's quite normal there," she says. "It's handily located opposite 192 and you can watch all the trends making a fool of themselves as they nibble salads and sip chardonnay. I used to be into all that lunching thing but I got tired of going to a place precisely because you know you're going to be looked at. I prefer to lunch with friends and wear an ordinary pair of trousers without worrying if they're this season's thing or not."



Ladies who lunch: but most count the calories



Recipe for success: 20 years ago women lunched almost exclusively in their homes, hosting small parties, but now everyone is so busy they prefer to eat out

LORD HANSON
Industrialist.
Goes to: the Connaught, Savoy Grill, Sannini's.
Eats: Dover sole off the bone, sea bass.
Drinks: nothing.
Lunches with: Frank Johnson, Bill Cash, Baroness Thatcher.

SIR RICHARD GREENBURY
Chairman of Marks & Spencer.
Goes to: M&S boardroom in Baker Street HQ.
Lunches with: the best from the M&S range, smoked fish followed by poached salmon. No chicken Kiev here.
Drinks: water.
Service: colossal oil paintings and liveried butlers mark this boardroom.

ELLIOT BERNARD
Property developer.
Goes to: Claridge's, where he has his own regular table.
Eats: tycoon's favourite of fish off the bone.
Drinks: glass of champagne.
Lunches with: Gerald Ronson, David Mellor.
Does not need to sign his bill. He is such a regular that he can just get up and leave.

ROCCO FORTE
Hotelier.
Goes to: The Savoy Grill.
Eats: Dover sole off the bone, puddings.
Drinks: champagne.
Lunches with: Max Hastings, Editor of the *Evening Standard*, Michael Green, chairman of Carlton Television.



The talk is of country sports.

SIR CHARLES AND LADY POWELL
Margaret Thatcher's former Downing Street aide-turned-businessman and his wife, a society hostess.



Ingham: steamed puddings.
Go to: Lady P goes to Kaspia, or at her house in Bayswater. Sir Charles prefers The Ritz.
Eat: blinis for her, haddock. Monte Carlo for him.
Drink: champagne, mineral water.
Lunch with: Peter Mandelson, Sir James Goldsmith, Paul Johnson, Baroness Thatcher.
How long: for him lunch is

The lunch bunch: The final part of our guide to the top 50 of Britain's most accomplished lunchers

brisk and businesslike, for her as long as it takes to squeeze out all the gossip.

MATTHEW EVANS
Head of Faber & Faber.
Goes to: The Ivy, where he has his own table.
Lunches with: highbrow literati such as Tom Stoppard, Julian Barnes and Salman Rushdie.

ED VICTOR
Literary agent.
Goes to: The Ivy, the Garrick Club.
Lunches with: celebrity writers, Joan Collins, Andrew Neil, Will Self.

SIR BERNARD INGHAM
Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary.
Goes to: Beuty's, Simpson's-in-the-Strand, Marzi's.
Eats: Dover sole, Waleska, Steamed puddings. Potatoes, but no other vegetables.
Drinks: nothing.
Likes to stretch out on a banquet and hold forth to guests.

NIGEL DEMPSTER
Gossip columnist, and
DAI LEWELLYN
Nightclub greeter.
Go to: Dan's, Monkeys, Leonardo's, Foxrot Oscar.
When: every Friday

Eat: full three courses.
Drink: bucketloads, starting with champagne, moving through to liqueurs.
Lunch with: Michael Corry-Reid, Johnny Kidd, ageing Chelsea bad boys.
Hangover: unbearable. The



Lady Powell: likes blinis

lunches have been known to carry on right through until Saturday night.

SHAUN WOODWARD
Wealthy new Tory MP for Witney.
Goes to: Le Caprice, Savoy Grill.
Eats: steaks, salads.
Drinks: champagne.

Smokes: an ostentatiously large cigar

THE VENERABLE GEORGE AUSTIN
Archdeacon of York.
Goes to: Simpson's-in-the-Strand.
Eats: like a starving vicar. Starters, main course from the trolley and treacle puddings to finish.
Drinks: red wine, liqueurs.
Loves: being rewarded for all his controversial statements by taking a slap-up lunch, which lasts well into the afternoon.

ANTHONY LEJEUNE
Historian of London's gentlemen's clubs.
Goes to: knows his way round every club table in London from the Beefsteak to White's. Eats: whatever grey meat in gravy is dished up.
Drinks: sherry, red wine.
Lunches with: the members' table.
Between courses: can outpoint any club bore with his store of anecdotes from clubland.

SIR EDWARD HEATH
MP for Old Bexley and Sidcup.
Goes to: the Berkeley Hotel, Buck's, the Carlton Club, the Chinese Embassy.
Eats: trifle.
Drinks: vintage wines.
Lunches with: William Waldegrave, sycophants. Known to invite journalists for a meal, have a polite lunch, then flay them over coffee.

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Martin Jacques likes Japanese food; Eve Pollard prefers the Oxo Tower with bosom pals



Rocco Forte, left, likes to talk of country sports over Dover sole and champagne at The Savoy Grill, while Patsy Kensit, Liam Gallagher and Stella McCartney prefer giggling and cigarettes with their beer at the Portobello Hotel



PATSY KENSIT
Liam Gallagher's wife.
MEG MATTHEWS
Noel Gallagher's wife.
MARIELLA FROSTRUP
STELLA MCCARTNEY
Go to: 192, The Portobello Hotel, The Fifth Floor at Harvey Nichols.
Eat: not much in between the ciggies and giggling.
Drink: spritzers, anything with vodka, bottled beers.
Like to: head off afterwards to designer shops down Sloane Street or the vintage clothes emporia of Notting Hill Gate.

MARTIN JACQUES
Former Editor of *Marxism Today*, *Guardian* columnist.
Goes to: Union Café in Marylebone, Orso, Stephen Bull's Bistro, Japanese restaurants.
Eats: salmon and manchego cheese with quince jelly. Fish.
Drinks: Sapporo beer, then wine.
Lunches with: Alan Rusbridger, Will Hutton, John Birt, Christopher Haskins of Northern Foods.

DOM ANTHONY SUTCH
Headmaster of Downside School.

Goes to: the Travellers' Club.
Eats: prodigiously.
Drinks: red wine and liqueurs such as Fernet Branca.
Lunches with: the Duke of Norfolk, Monsignor Gilbey, smart Roman Catholic par-

Hanson: sole or sea bass
ents of the boys in his charge.

DONALD SINDEN
Actor.
Goes to: Garrick Club, stalwart of the members' table.

Eats: a bread roll accompanied by a packet of cigarettes.
Drinks: black coffee, brandy and soda.
Manner: conspiratorial. Never stops to draw breath.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES
Goes to: Chelsea Harbour Club, La Farniglia, San Lorenzo, Launceston Place, also a favourite of Lord Snowdon.
Eats: pasta, salads.
Drinks: water.
Lunches with: used to be with girlfriends, now prospective suitors such as Christopher Whalley and Gulu Lalvani.

JAY JOPLING
Art dealer, and
DAMIEN HIRST
Go to: greasy spoons round Cork Street, Quo Vadis in Soho.
Eat: food comes second to smoking and drinking.
Drink: vodka with tonic or fruit juice.
Lunch with: Sam Taylor-Wood, Dave Stewart, Jarvis Cocker.

EVE POLLARD
Agony aunt for the *Sunday Mirror*.
Goes to: Oxo Tower, Quaglin's, Pont de la Tour.
Eats: colossal salads, shellfish.
Drinks: champagne and balloon-sized glasses of white wine.
Lunches with: bosom pals from her editing days at the then *Sunday Express*, Charles Lewington, former Tory director of communications, Peter McKay.

JOHN WALSH
Former Literary Editor of *The Independent*, presenter of Radio 4's *Books and Company*.
Goes to: The Ivy, Chilli's in Canary Wharf.
Eats: Bangers and mash, burritos.
Drinks: Red wine, vodka.
Lunches with: a constant stream of young women in publishing.
Model for: Ivo Spence, the heavy-drinking hack in *Vicious Circle*, Amanda Craig's

satire on literary London.

HYWEL WILLIAMS
Aide to John Redwood.
Goes to: The Beefsteak Club, Bois d'Arc.
Eats: sprats, oysters, beef.
Drinks: gallons of the "Argentine red infuriator".
Lunches with: the Tory Right.

PETER MANDELSON
Minister without Portfolio.
Goes to: The Avenue, the Tate Gallery Restaurant.
Eats: guinea fowl, Caesar salad without the croutons.
Drinks: mineral water, hot water with a slice of lemon.
In stark contrast to: the old Labour lot who held court in The Gay Hussar in Soho.

ION TREWIN
Publisher of Weidenfeld & Nicolson.
Goes to: The Garrick, The Ivy, Manzi's in Leicester Street.
Drinks: wine, mineral water.



Frostrup: bottled beers

freshly squeezed orange juice.
Eats: fish, "any good quality nursery food".
Lunches with: Alan Clark, MP, Edna O'Brien, agents, publishers.
How long: "The big publishing lunch is a thing of the past. An hour and a half."
Tips: lunches divide into those where you want to be seen, and those where you don't. Has one place near his office where no one else goes and uses it for secret meetings.

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IN THE ARTS

Sex, earthy and unearthly:
two new art exhibitions
under one roof
celebrate sensuality
from East and West

Arts, pages 20, 21

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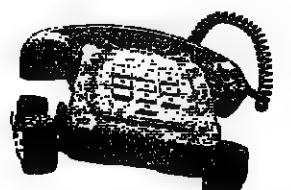
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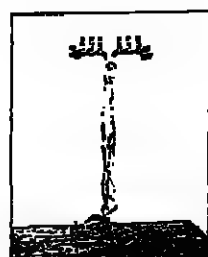
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■ VISUAL ART 1

Body shapes: at the Whitechapel Gallery the sculptor Cathy de Monchaux explores sensuality



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while a series of Indian miniatures celebrates the fleshly conquests of the god Krishna

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC 1

Who has made the best recording of Monteverdi's great Vespers of 1610?



■ MUSIC 2

Rattle conducts an electrifying performance of the *Eroica* Symphony with period instruments

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Whitechapel Gallery's twin celebration of sex earthy and unearthly; plus galleries

Pain and joy of carnal desires

While summer temperatures soar, erotic delight is given free rein inside the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Upstairs, the amorous antics of the Hindu god Krishna fill the walls with rampant sensuality while, downstairs, the assured young British sculptor Cathy de Monchaux is even less inhibited in her sumptuous exploration of the body.

Before long, though, the pleasure principle in de Monchaux's work turns out to be offset by pain. Far from celebrating the body with straightforward abandon, she is continually aware of hedonism's darker side. *Dangerous Fragility*, a two-part sculpture flanking the entrance to her exhibition, reveals this dualism with theatrical flair. On one side, the convoluted structure hanging on the wall seems to open outwards, revealing forms suggestive of female genitalia. The skill with which de Monchaux handles leather, simulating the folds and wrinkles of human flesh, is formidable.

She has a virtuoso ability to manipulate her materials: pliable leather is set against the harshness of brass and the taut ribbons which give the sculpture so much tension. Rather than exposing itself in a languorous manner, the pink flesh appears to be cruelly pinioned. Vulnerability prevails, but in the other half of *Dangerous Fragility* the defencelessness vanishes. Now the structure seems to have snapped shut. The voluptuous, fetishistic allure of the first half is sacrificed, to be replaced by a far colder and more wary alternative.

In the largest work, an installation constructed as a room within the gallery, thoughts of a burial chamber come to mind. Its emotive title, *Never forget the power of tears*, reinforces the feeling of grief in a space where forms are laid out ceremoniously, like corpses on the floor. Sensuality still lurks here, above all in the chalk-dusted leather segments where pudendal flesh is simulated with uncanny, seductive fidelity. But the enticing body parts appear to be trapped in the floor, and they are juxtaposed with large, lead-covered boxes held down with rusted steel clasps.

Elaboration plays no part in these austere rectangles, which suggest how much of a debt de Monchaux may owe to the Minimalist tradition. She is certainly capable of working with rigorous severity, and usually knows when to curb her instinctive love of excess. Around the walls of this

sanctum, though, a nine-part sculpture called *Trust your sanity to no one* releases a more fanciful side of her imagination. Small forms resembling sea-creatures or lizards are stuck, limpet-like, in corners and above doorways. Their playful scattering comes as a relief after the sobriety of the floor-piece, proving that mournfulness can be seasoned with wit in de Monchaux's art.

Humour reaches a cabaret level in a quirky work where frogs, 13 of each sex, are strung out like a chorus line of demented performers. Even here, though, their gaping mouths look strangled. Violence and damage are never far away, and they take on the significance of a secular crucifixion in a

weird, repellent work titled *I thought you said you loved me*. At the top, rusted metallic hands which might have strayed from a science-fiction fantasy are clamped on to tangled ropes of leather. They twist downwards, plaited and yet split every three feet, like intestines bursting from a wound. Visceral and blood-flecked, they contrast with the robotic impersonality of the claws holding them to the wall. Nothing remotely seductive can be found in this anguished spillage. It is a cri de coeur, suggesting that de Monchaux's art is, at heart, more autobiographical than may at first be apparent.

No such mortification blights the Krishna show upstairs. Selected with an eye for vivacity by Balraj Khanna, more than 120 miniatures from the 16th to the 19th centuries chart the tireless, perpetually diverting adventures of this ever-popular divinity. The eighth incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, Krishna was irrepressible from childhood: in one 18th-century Jaipur picture the blue-coloured boy with a green halo is caught stealing butter from a milk churn.

Miniature painting may have been constrained by rules, but they did nothing to deflate the high spirits displayed in so many of the

images. Decorative virtuosity abounds, sometimes with an élan that made me wonder how Asian art may have influenced de Monchaux. But they are always subservient to the storytelling purpose of the painting, and Krishna's escapades guarantee that the narrative energy never falters.

He is capable of brutal retribution when circumstances demand. The outside demon Putana finds herself killed by the deceptively small god when he sucks her breast dry. He is equally capable, in an adult guise, of grabbing the evil Kansa by the hair and bringing a blade down on his exposed neck. All the same, Krishna displays mercy as well, forgiving the submissive Katiya with commendable generosity.

But he is in no danger of becoming a saintly bore. Sexuality and spirituality are fused in Hinduism, to an extent unimaginable in Christianity. So Krishna's carnal appetites never seem incompatible with his divine status. He goes about his love-making as inventively as Don Juan. One of the most beguiling miniatures shows him perched in a tree, staring with lustful satisfaction at the clothes slung further along the same branch. He has stolen them from the cowgirls bathing in the lotus-filled water below, and their blend of dismay and excitement is subtly defined by the artist's command of sinuous contours.

Krishna's resourcefulness enables him to satisfy all the cowgirls. In a hallucinatory picture, he multiplies himself and makes love to six of them at the same time. But there is nothing rapacious about his cunning manoeuvres. He embraces his conquests gently, as if determined not to abuse his powers too crudely. That is why his limitless appetite for amorous conquests does not seem offensive. We smile at Krishna's exploits, and are charmed even more when he performs miraculous feats without discernible effort. Standing at the centre of a forest fire, he saves the animals, birds and humans by swallowing the flames. He is also capable of indulging a holiday mood, dancing in the rain with a flower in his hand or squirting young women with coloured water.

Krishna is a god for all seasons, and plenty of the artists in this enchanting show include superb passages of landscape observed at different times of day. A blood-red sunset, glimpsed above a dark



Krishna's combat with the god Indra: all it seems, in a day's work for a very busy Hindu deity

mass of densely foliated trees, lends unexpected tension to a lyrical scene where Krishna is serenaded by trumpet-blowing attendants. Above all, he appears in an abundance of different settings with the devoted Radha. The two lovers gaze at each other, suspended in rapture on a swing. They walk in a grove as beguiling as Paradise, and embrace in court-

yards where cowgirls gather to watch them with appraising eyes.

In order to give the show a contemporary dimension, several artists have been invited to add work of their own. The most spectacular, by Perindar Kaur, covers the entire final wall with brilliantly coloured figures made of polar fleece. In many cases, their actions are ambiguous: Kaur

seems fascinated by the ease with which an embrace can be transformed into a struggle. In this respect, Kaur's willingness to explore the interplay between pleasure and suffering brings her closer to the perturbation explored by de Monchaux on the floor below.

Both shows are at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London E1 (0171-522 7878) until July 27

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE difficulty with an artist such as Celso Lagar (1891-1966), whose life story is extraordinary and in many respects tragic, is to separate the life from the art. Sympathy is understandable, but would we be interested in the work if we were not interested in the man?

The horrors of Lagar's life all crowded together in its last ten years. He had come to Paris from Spain when he was 20, rapidly fallen in with the sculptor Hortense Begue, who was to be his companion and wife for some 45 years, had shared a studio with Modigliani and become a close friend of Picasso, and everything went swimmingly. Then, in 1956, Begue died, there was a disastrous fire at his studio, and he was maliciously accused of arson. The distracted artist was carried off to the local lunatic asylum and left there, too proud to appeal for help. When the London dealer Andras Kalman discovered his work everyone thought he was dead, but Kalman managed to trace Lagar and eventually he was released.

Fortunately his art, now on show at the Crane Kalman Gallery, commands attention in its own right. There are traces of Modigliani's influence, and of Blue Period Picasso, but mostly it is his own, and surprisingly Spanish, especially in the circus pictures he painted obsessively, which belong to the dark world of Goya or Solana rather than to the Ecole de Paris. Crane Kalman Gallery, 178 Brompton Road, SW3 (0171-584 7566) until July 26

Michael Leonard is a Classical rather than a Neo-Classical artist. The distinction needs to be insisted on, since contemporary Neo-Classicism is almost always involved with pastiche, camp, and the tongue at least slightly in the cheek. Leonard, on the contrary, is intensely serious and single-minded in all he paints. Not necessarily in all he draws, in that his "transpositions", portraying friends in styles which he finds suitable to their cast of feature, are generally tinged with sly humour as well as acute art-historical observation.

But as a painter his interests are at one with the Masters: he is fascinated by the sensuous surface and hidden architecture of the human body, and this fascination has produced some of the finest nudes of the 20th century.

He has also, in the past few years, taken up still-life, and the exquisitely finished portraits of fruit and flowers in his latest show combine meticulous accuracy with a voluptuous warmth which he never quite allows himself in his figure compositions.

Thomas Gibson Fine Art, 44 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-499 8572) until June 27

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

WHAT happens when you put a real conductor in front of one of the best period-instrument orchestras? This is something that occurs too rarely. The directors of such ensembles usually have little idea of how to conduct, although many of them do so nowadays, regardless of whether the concept of a conductor in much of the earlier repertoire is authentic or not.

But, happily, it does happen on a regular basis with Simon Rattle as principal guest conductor of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. He has

An authentic hero at work

CONCERT

OAE/Rattle
Queen Elizabeth Hall

especially in the performance of Schubert's Tenth Symphony in the realisation by Brian Newbould, that Rattle, not afraid to take risks, stretches his players to the full. The

demands of the slow movement exposed some technical weaknesses, but this served to emphasise the strange, new paths Schubert was on the verge of taking.

This strangeness is most apparent in the almost unrelentingly fugue last movement, yet even the melodious opening Allegro maestoso is chaotic in its constant shift between major and minor. I found Newbould's or-

chestration a little fussy here, but Rattle and his team pulled off a convincing account.

Then Rattle brought a brilliantly bold and fresh interpretation to bear on the *Eroica*. Conducting from memory, and in constant eye contact with every section of the orchestra, he drew world-class playing from the OAE, which rose to the challenge magnificently.

Exuberant in the broad sweep of the first movement, fiercely intense in the funeral march, erupting into playfulness for the Scherzo—all this was paced with such coherence that it seemed a preparation for the apotheosis of the hero in the finale. Every detail was in place, in line with the historically informed approach. But what do you get with a real conductor? An interpretation that is strong and individual yet spontaneous, that brings true insight and a deserved roar of appreciation from the audience.

TESS KNIGHTON

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

MONTEVERDI'S VESPERS OF 1610

Reviewed by Bruce Wood
FEW works confront performers with as many problems as Monteverdi's Vespers. The 1610 edition is frustratingly unclear as to instrumentation, the appropriateness of liturgical performance, and even which pieces in the volume actually belong to the Vespers. Hence no two recordings, which span some 30 years, contain exactly the same music.

Three 1970s recordings feature all-male choirs: King's College, Cambridge under Philip Ledger (EMI), Regensburg Cathedral under Hanns-Martin Schneidt (Archiv), and the Hanover Boys' Choir under Heinz Hennig (Ars Musica). The German recordings boast the more sensitive

solo singing, but their choirs are no match for King's.

More recent recordings are astonishingly diverse. John Eliot Gardiner's enormous forces, recorded for Archiv in St Mark's Cathedral, Venice, sound improbably sumptuous: Jordi Savall's brilliant instrumentalists (on Audite) outshine his singers. Frieder Bernius (Deutsche Harmonia Mundi) offers superlative solo singing, and Harry Christophers (Hyperion) an exceptionally well-drilled choir. Alongside these Nikolaus Harnoncourt's mainstream reading (on Teldec) seems anodyne. With welcome radicalism,

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Saturday on Radio 3 (Pam): Beethoven's *Eroica* Variations, Op 35



Philippe Herreweghe (Harmonia Mundi) tames the two cruelly high movements, *Lauda Jerusalem* and the *Magnificat*, by transposing them down. But more satisfying yet are the group who pioneered this solution, the Taverner Choir, Consort and Players under Andrew Parrott, at mid-price on Virgin Classics VMD 561346-2 £19.99. Their radiant vocal soloists and virtuoso instrumentalists bring Monteverdi's masterpiece up as fresh as new paint.

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Clarke likes jazz, Lilley has the tunes

Robert Skidelsky says Tory MPs should prefer ideas to charisma

What direction should the Conservative Party take in Opposition? The answer to this question this month will most probably determine their choice of leader. Whether they get the answer right will help to decide whether we have five or ten years of Labour Government, or even longer. That question is bound up with another: is the Thatcherite revolution done or only half-done? According to the first view, we now have a broadly acceptable framework of political economy, which even Labour accepts. The task of the Opposition is therefore to attack mistakes in the conduct of policy and to offer a credible alternative administration.

According to the second reading, the task of Opposition is more ambitious. It is to push back the frontier of reform, particularly in social policy. Despite many successes, the framework inherited by Labour can deliver only mediocre economic performance, and government is still too rumpant for the health of a free society. Both views assume that the Labour Government will fail, the first because all governments fail sooner or later, the second because the structure of success is still lacking.

The essence of what might be called the managerialist view of Opposition is that the Conservatives must not make themselves unelectable by "lurching to the Right", as Labour "lurches to the Left" in 1970. The managerialists argue that rapid recovery from the two heavy electoral defeats of 1945 and 1966 depended on forswearing "ideology" and sticking to the centre ground.

This is less than a half-truth. David Willetts (in his *Modern Conservatism*) reminds us that in the late 1940s the Conservative Party deliberately repositioned itself as the party of freedom and that in 1970 the Tories campaigned (successfully) on a manifesto which was "more Thatcherite than the 1983 manifesto — and probably even than the manifesto of 1979". Edward Heath's lack of belief in it contributed to his failure. Each of the Conservative revivals was accompanied by an intellectual ferment which culminated in a recommitment to the cause of freedom and limited government. The notion that the idea of freedom, together with practical policies to enlarge it, is as electorally repugnant to the British people as were the projects of the extreme Left seems to me one of the grosser misreadings of recent history.

The real issue is, then, the following: will the Conservative Opposition be content to compete for the management of Labour's version of the Thatcherite inheritance, or will it risk thinking through what it means to be the party of freedom in the new millennium? This, I believe, is the choice, offered by Kenneth Clarke and Peter Lilley, the two serious and worthy contenders for John Major's fallen

crown. Michael Howard and John Redwood seem to me to confuse popularity with populism, and about William Hague I know little except that he is young, balding and made a good speech at the age of 16.

Mr Clarke is a political heavyweight. He would make an effective and pugnacious leader. He is quick and clever, popular in the country, and would win verbal duels in the Commons. He has a competent, but not reforming Chancellor. Here lies his weakness. He is not a man of ideas, nor is he instinctively attracted to those who have them. They bore him. A doughty Heathite survivor, he has accepted parts of the Thatcher revolution, but its logic never entered his soul. This, it is argued, will keep him human. People will not feel threatened by Mr Clarke, which is very important. But whom will he attract into the party? Why should one be a Clarke Conservative rather than Blairite Labour? I can find no convincing answer.

Peter Lilley lacks Mr Clarke's "charisma". He seems cerebral, and rather cold. Like Mr Clarke he is formidably clever, unlike Mr Clarke, he is thoughtful and careful. He feels passion, but finds it hard to express. He is a powerful debater. He will not score easy verbal triumphs, but he will consistently land heavy punches. No one is more likely to dent Labour's intellectual self-confidence.

Like Clarke, Lilley is clever; unlike him, he is careful

Two days after his appointment as Secretary of State for Social Services in 1992, Frank Field — now a minister in the same department — howled him "a little technical question which aimed at best to get him waffling and at worst to floor him. His answer was deftly hatted back with such force and confidence that all I could do was quietly to resume my seat."

Mr Lilley's pension-plus plan, the most important reform — though also too late — to come out of the late Government, showed some of the qualities the party might expect of him as leader: a love of freedom, concern to get the argument right, commitment to workable reforms and a skill in presentation. Ironically, though Lilley is to the "right" of Clarke, he is less abrasive, more consensual.

In choosing between two fine contenders, Conservative MPs will need to balance the need quickly to build up morale and the need to renew the party spiritually and intellectually — to make it exciting and to give a new electorate positive reasons to vote for it. A Clarke-led Conservative Party will do the former; I cannot imagine it achieving the latter. A Lilley-led party has a chance to do both.

We would all prefer a leader with both star-quality and good tunes. It would be better to start by acquiring some good tunes. The star quality will follow in due course.

The author takes the Conservative whip in the Lords.



"MUST HE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING?....."

Books and barbarism

Antiquarian dealers refused to publish this attack by Germaine Greer on the vandals who dismember rare volumes

A book, whether well or badly made, is a very intimate thing. Only you the reader can hold it in your hands, open and enter its pages. If other people try to share your reading with you, peering over your shoulder as you read on the Underground, you feel embarrassed and try to angle the opening away from violating gaze. A stranger who tries to read what you read as you are reading it is the worst kind of intruder, reading your mind, as it were, without your permission. It is worse than tapping your phone.

If the book is well made, of hand-made paper stoutly stitched and with a hand-tooled leather binding, sensual pleasure is added to this intense intimacy. The best-made books have individual smells: my Moroccan-bound presentation copy of *The Waterbabies* has a smell that recalls my childhood every bit as effectively as the scent of Proust's madeleines. If, on the other hand, you have before you a block of cheap modern paper in what is laughingly known as "perfect binding", which uses no stitching at all, you know that this is a book that will not be around long enough to become a friend because, when its glue dries out, there will come a day when you will open it and all its leaves will fall to the floor.

Usually we are unaware of the people who have had our book before us. We read on in blissful communion unless we are brought up short by some marginal comment, as disconcerting as a lipstick mark upon a collar. I shall never forget the shock of finding, written in a contemporary hand in the margin of a copy of the 1667 folio edition of the works of the poet Katherine Philips, a colourful four-letter word. That particular copy of this handsome edition, left in 1869 to the Victoria and Albert Museum by the scholar and collector the Reverend Alexander Dyce, contains other 17th-century marginalia that are rather less disturbing.

To a bibliophile, as distinct from a textual scholar (though many booklovers are both), it is important to find out the identity of past owners of a book: in his *Index of English Literary Manuscripts*, Dr Peter Beal gives almost as much importance to books that can be proved to have been owned by particular authors as he does to the manuscripts of their own work. All writers read more than they write, and what they write is illuminated by knowing what they read.

Fortunes were spent on restoration, which meant, in effect, destruction

Nowadays, historians are putting more energy than ever before into the history of reading; we cannot understand intellectual life in any epoch if we do not know what was read, how many, how often and how understood. Ironically, the more popular a book, the more it is handled, carried and passed from hand to hand, the less likely it is to survive.

Scholars in my line of business are hooked on the sensual appeal of old books. Though they know that some of the most valuable books in the British Library (the most comprehensive and valuable collection of pre-19th-century printed books in the world) are suffering from regular handling by thousands of bare hands, their pages turned by an endless succession of fingertips, each equipped with a sweat-pad, they refuse to consult the same books on microfilm. They want to get the feel, the weight, smell the smell of the real, surviving, actual book, whether they have a special bibliographic interest or not.

These are pleasures they will soon have to forgo. In the past, fortunes were spent on restoring old books, which meant, in effect, destroying them. They were taken apart, sometimes the leaves were encased in special membranes, and rebound as fat, tight, glossy things that would withstand all handling. The process was not only expensive but, like a

good deal of art restoration, misguided to the point of insane vandalism. An historian of the book can learn little or nothing from a book that has been treated in this way.

With the aid of specially engineered computers and specially designed software, we will soon be able to find out much more about papers, types, inks and bindings than was dreamt of before — provided that their structure has not been obliterated. We should already be able to arrange surviving copies of an edition in the order that they came off the press, for example, merely by microscopic analysis of wear to the type, and thus to arrive at accurate assessments of stop-press corrections and suppressions.

Better knowledge of the book is important to me as a scholar of literature: if in the pursuit of better understanding I have to forgo the deep and quiet pleasure of holding some of our most precious old books in my bare hands, for nothing, so be it. Our national collections of books are our birthright; but it is no longer feasible to allow us to paw them, any more than we can try on the Crown Jewels. If we want to hold these precious parcels in our naked hands in future, we are going to have to own them.

It is now 30 years since I became a collector and a custodian of old books. At first I bought copies of printings of rare women poets, most of them first editions, not because I wanted the books but because I wanted the poems. For years, I let these slim volumes kick around all over the house, on my desk, on the floor, by my bed, and occasionally on a bookshelf: only last week I began slipping them into sleeves, to protect them against further damage from central heating, light, dust and

At stall after stall, all over Europe, vendors offer nothing but wreckage

pollution, noticing guiltily how many of them had inscriptions and dedications, and how little account I had made of them.

These were not for the most part well-made books and, given my rough treatment, they have aged very badly. Ten years ago I began to acquire 17th-century editions. Though I like nothing better than looking at their gold-tooled leather spines ranged in their walnut bookcase, I'm afraid that too many have to go into sleeves, to be taken out and handled on quiet evenings in the company of a noble claret.

These days, as I poke about on bookstalls looking for something to rescue, I discover too often that I am too late. In stall after stall in street markets all over Europe vendors offer the wreckage of beautiful books in the shape of single leaves selling at inflated prices. Even reputable merchants with shops in elegant streets are unembarrassed to sell such leaves

as prints. Whenever I see a page torn from a psalter or a missal, or worse still a herbal or a florilegium, and sold off as something to frame and hang on a wall, I vow to ring my Euro MP and ask him to bring a Bill in the European Parliament to outlaw any further breaking up of antiquarian books for profit, and to require that every leaf of such a book offered for sale has a certificate of provenance. If it is barbarous to burn a book, it is hardly less barbarous to dismember it. And still I see, as I bid in book auctions, the vandals raising their paddles alongside me, forcing the prices to something I cannot pay, because the tatters of the book can be sold for more than the book itself. These are outrages that we can and should stop now.

Dr Greer is an Unofficial Fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge, and the author of many books on English literature and feminism. This article was written at the invitation of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association as the introduction to the catalogue of its annual London Book Fair, opening on June 26. The ABA rejected the piece due to its implied criticism of ABA members. Libby Purves is away. Her column will resume next week.

The long and short of a boom

Anatole Kaletsky takes issue with the Chancellor

In the long run we are all dead. Of all the wise insights produced by John Maynard Keynes, the 20th century's only great economist, this was perhaps the wisest. It both explains the practical failure of pre-Keynesian theoretical economics and acts as a mental inoculation against tyrannies, dogmas and ideologies, most of which assume that "short-term" sacrifices — of prosperity, political freedom or even human life — must be made to achieve some glorious "long-term" outcome.

I start with these somewhat arcane reflections because I experienced a political epiphany last week: the Manichaean battle between short-term and long-term thinking will be at the heart of every government economic policy in the years ahead. As an unabashed Keynesian and someone who has seen long-termism used for decades in Germany and Japan as a euphemism for inflexibility, complacency and refusal to accept change, I know which side of this argument I am likely to be on. More importantly, I see more clearly where Gordon Brown's instincts lie.

Last week I witnessed the results of his philosophy in action: first came an increase in interest rates, then I had the pleasure of discussing with my wife what luxuries we might buy with our share of the windfalls raining down on 11 million British households.

The Chancellor believes in the long term with a fervour I have rarely seen — certainly not since the forced retirement of Nigel Lawson, whose biggest mistake was always to stick to long-term convictions, when short-term adjustments were required. Will Mr Brown now fall into the same trap?

His first five weeks in office have seen a whirlwind of policy announcements even before he unveils his Budget — the freeing of the Bank of England, a new system for financial regulation, the evident disdain for short-term demand management as a recipe for job creation, a passion, instead, for structural solutions such as reform of the welfare and tax system. All these have emphasised long-term stability and rejected opportunism. Expressed like that, the strategy sounds virtuous. But where is it likely to lead?

Mr Brown is convinced that the more today's consumption boom can be restrained by the Bank of England and the Budget, the better investment will respond. In his view, the greatest failure of the British has been, today and under successive Conservative Governments, our low level of manufacturing investment.

Although there are as many divergent figures on investment as there are politicians and economists arguing about them, it is hard to deny the thrust of Mr Brown's claims. Investment has been low throughout the past five years of economic expansion and it has been extremely low in the manufacturing industries. These are felt by the public to be particularly important for the nation's long-term wellbeing because they produce the tangible "things" of real value — unlike retailing, advertising and so on.

A Keynesian short-termist such as myself has no difficulty in explaining low investment. Businesses will invest only when their existing factories are working near full capacity and they can anticipate a substantial growth in demand for their goods. In the past year demand for British goods was only just reaching such levels when manufacturers' profits were squeezed by the strength of sterling, and then by the highest interest rates in the civilised world. Under these circumstances we short-termists would rely on strong consumption to boost investment. If possible, I would also seek to reduce interest rates and lower sterling, while sharply raising taxes. This would make manufactured exports more profitable than production for the home market.

But Mr Brown's long-term philosophy leads him to exactly the opposite view. The Chancellor appears to believe that the fundamental reason for low investment has been the short-term orientation of government policy, which has resulted in inflationary booms and busts. What is deterring investment on this view is not the strength of sterling or the fear of an overzealous Bank of England — it is the manufacturers' fear of the consumer boom itself.

All short-term booms lead eventually to inflation and that, in turn, produces a bust. According to this theory, manufacturers have been discouraged from investing by the recent strength of consumer spending. The way to give them more courage and thereby to increase long-term investment would be to squeeze short-term demand. And since the Treasury's ability to hit consumers with higher taxes has been circumscribed by election promises, there is all the more reason for giving the Bank a free hand: hence the rush to make it independent.

So there you have it: the long-term theory against the short-term one. We will see which is right, by the time the long term is upon us. Let us hope that neither the economy nor the new Government is by then dead.

Point duty

MADAME Speaker has grand designs within the Palace of Westminster but she also exerts her influence on its immediate environs. Yesterday she took to directing the traffic in Parliament Square. Inspired perhaps by John Prescott's plan for an integrated transport system, Betty Boothroyd became enraged by the havoc she witnessed while walking the pavements outside the Houses of Parliament.

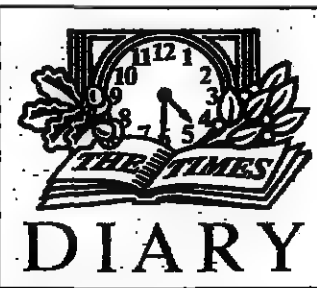
The traffic lights had failed once again in the square and a stew of

vehicles was making life impossible for pedestrians who, like herself, needed to cross Parliament Street. So Madame Speaker bustled up menacingly to a policeman who was looking on. "If you don't get on and do something I'll do it myself," she said. Thereupon, she marched into the middle of the road, held up her hand and started telling the drivers where to go.

"She's not in the habit of doing this," said her secretary. "It was purely to facilitate her own crossing and that of the pedestrians with her."

The AA cautioned against such actions, although the organisation stressed that it was not illegal for anybody to start directing traffic. "If she had made anybody crash, she would have been liable," said a spokesman. "And, clearly, motorists could have ignored her if they had chosen to. But knowing the way she deals with errant MPs, that might not have been wise."

After the excitement of his wine sale, Lord Lloyd-Webber is disposing of more mundane chattels in Ireland, where he has a house which has just been renovated. Curtains, a marble fireplace, the odd mirror and some paintings from his stud farm, Kiltinan



Castle, Co Tipperary, are to be sold later this month at an auction in Castlecomer. His office stresses that this is no indication that he plans to leave Britain and live in Ireland for good.

Beef stew

IN A CONFLICT of interests that can only send shockwaves through the meat industry, it has emerged that Lord Donoghue, Minister for Farming and Food, is a vegetarian. The news has turned the sizeable stomach of Nicholas Soames, a former Minister for Food. The recently appointed junior minister is responsible for a number of agricultural policy sectors, including common agricultural policy reform and other meaty areas. "He eats less red meat these days for reasons of health," says a source in Westminster. "No meat has passed Donoghue's lips since the elec-

tion." Stephen Carr, who owns a farm in East Sussex and writes for the farming press, said: "Well, let's hope he likes fish."

Another victory over the press for new Labour took place on Saturday as a Downing Street football team beat a team from the Commons' press gallery. Led by the Financial Times's correspondent George "Tackle" Parker, the hacks could do nothing against the young politicians, who even felled two women, one of them Liz Lloyd from the No 10 policy unit. Tim Allan, from the PM's press office, scored twice in the 3-1 victory. Nat-



"It confirms you drank with all the Tory leadership candidates"

urally, the game took place in Islington.

Needle match

HARD-EARNED reputations were on the line at west London's River Cafe on Sunday night at a quiz night to raise money for the Turville Children's Project, which enables children from inner cities to spend time in the Buckinghamshire countryside. The compère was Jeremy Paxman, a resident of Turville; questions were set by Gill Hornby, the wife of the writer Robert Harris and sister of Nick Hornby, the author of *Fever Pitch*.

When the team comprising Harris, Hornby N, and Tom Stoppard emerged as the winners, including the likes of Salman Rushdie, John Mortimer and Richard Eyre, accusations started to fly. Had Harris and Hornby exploited their close links with the question setter? To cries of "Fix", Paxman stepped in. "When Robert won last time, suspicions of his victory reached the letters pages of *The Times*. This year, I can confirm, he has been in a state of complete misery and isolation for the past two weeks."

Fine catch

ONLY the very best will do for the world's richest man, even when it



Richards: easy wicket

comes to his children's sports education. Viv Richards, the stylish batsman and former captain of the West Indies cricket side, has been flown into Brunel to coach one of the Sultan's two sons.

The master blaster, as the Sultan affectionately calls Richards, is being paid an undisclosed sum for his services but his effort will have been worthwhile. When Ian Botham ran a little low financially after the Imran Khan libel case, the Sultan took him on as a coach and is said to have paid him £200,000 for his troubles.

P.H.S



Boothroyd: directing traffic



NEW WELFARE

Labour's ideas are tentative but promising

Welfare dependency is the least welcome legacy of the postwar decades. The true test of Tony Blair's radicalism will be the extent to which he is prepared to tackle it. Britain now has an underclass from which escape is hard, in which crime and despair are easy, to which new generations are constantly being born. The result is not just a fractured society; it is one that is economically inefficient and expensive for those in work.

Social security spending accounts for nearly a third of all government expenditure, almost matching the money used for health, education and defence taken together. Since 1979, this amount has risen by 85 per cent in real terms. But, even if the social security bill were not rising, there would still be social and economic arguments for trying to reintegrate the underclass into the labour market. The existence of so many unemployed, lone parents and long-term sick or disabled not only creates the traditional inner-city problems — it also holds back Britain's potential for growth.

Gordon Brown's welfare-to-work programme should increase labour supply at the right time in the economic cycle, as skill shortages are beginning to appear. But his proposals are not tough enough. Those 18 to 25-year-olds who have been unemployed for more than six months will be offered four reasonable options; they should not be allowed the fifth one of doing nothing (or working on the black market) for 60 per cent of their benefit.

Harriet Harman's proposals for lone parents are also too timid. She plans to call them into the jobcentre for careers advice when their youngest child reaches school age. But why should they not be expected to engage in education, training or part-time work while their children are at school? In Britain's admirably flexible labour market, many employers now offer part-time, term-time employment, which can be dovetailed with holiday work for students.

The Social Security Secretary should also look at the growing number of claimants who say they are unfit for work even as the health of the nation is improving. As we report today, she is thinking of providing less cash and more home help for this group. This should act as a deterrent to those who see living on incapacity or disablement

benefits as an early retirement. She should also review their fitness more frequently and reconsider the medical incapacity test, which assesses ability to do manual work. Most jobs are now in the service sector: physical disabilities should not be automatic disqualification for work.

As Mr Brown emphasised in Luxembourg yesterday, the best way to create jobs is to increase people's employability. The Department of Social Security should see this as its job, possibly contracting out to the private sector too. An American programme, "America Works", uses a private company to teach the long-term unemployed literacy, punctuality, presentation and other tools of work before finding them a job and supporting them through the first few months. The organisation is paid by results — and the results have been a great success. This approach has been more effective than giving subsidies directly to private-sector employers, who tend to assume that people who qualify for subsidies are, by definition, unemployable.

It is encouraging, too, to see Ms Harman and her deputy, Frank Field, considering other routes for provision against the vicissitudes of life. In some areas, such as income support, the State should probably continue as the last resort. But the State is a very remote institution and continuing public support for the welfare state will depend upon people feeling a greater connection between what they pay and what they stand to receive. Making the national insurance system more autonomous, managed for and "owned" by its contributors, might be seen as a cosmetic move by purists, but it could help to make taxpayers resent their contributions less.

The encouragement of a "mutual" sector standing between the State and the citizen is also a promising move. All insurance, private or public, needs risks to be pooled. But this need not necessarily be done at a national level. For pensions, long-term care, disability and sickness, there is plenty of scope for a return to the friendly society model of welfare. When a Labour Government, traditionally the champion of the State, is proposing such a reduction of the State's responsibilities, we begin to see what new Labour might properly mean.

SUCH A HEALTHY IDEA

Vanity is a virtue when it comes to keeping men healthy

Male economic power is in decline; the male biological role is usurped by jam jar and syringe; men are finding it daily more difficult to convince women of their worth. As women become choosier, so men have to attend to their appearance. An *Hermès* tie draped over the beer belly like a silken ski-slope is no longer enough. The best way men have of ensuring that they appear to advantage is getting, and staying, healthy.

From follicular sheen to washboard stomach, rude health is the visible guarantee of well, a healthy amount of rudeness. Vanity may be the impetus for working out and taking care but society benefits from men who are vigorous and vital. Men's Health Week, sponsored by the magazine of that name, may be the brainchild of a periodical for preeners but the taut rear end justifies the male model means. The Health Education Council's support for the magazine's efforts is also an exquisitely poised embrace of the private sector by the public in which new Labour's always well-groomed spin doctors should delight.

Vanity may be the starting point for men determined to pursue a healthier lifestyle but the other benefits of being in condition should be stressed. Men have a lower life expectancy than women and are more likely to succumb to preventable diseases. They are less likely to go to the doctor when they should and more likely to go to the pub when they should not. Raising men's awareness of the dangers inherent in many male life-

styles, however, requires gentle sleeve-tugging and whispered wisdom. The best of men will often deprecate the "fuss" that proper healthcare involves.

Some of the most admirably unselfconscious men will demur at the necessary check-up, preferring not to "bother" their physician when, in fact, nothing would delight a doctor more than spotting early, and stemming, a potentially troublesome problem. Many of the most charming men will consider it morally more admirable to be a lively guest than a puritan bottle-watcher. But a proper thoughtfulness for others should make even the most bibulous more moderate. They should realise that delightful company as a convivial father, husband or friend may be, there will be more of his society to enjoy in the long run if he makes himself a little less sociable.

Making men healthier is not all hard work and thin gruel. It can be a simple matter of flexibility. Giving GPs more leeway to run their surgeries as they see fit can make it easier for the busy executive to drop in, or at least more difficult for him to make the excuse that he cannot. Better health can depend on others making an effort as well as oneself; but, praise be to fashion, it can also derive from making no effort at all. For those who wish to see the toxins flood effortlessly out of their system, while staying at style's cutting edge, the steam bath beckons. In the Nineties, the men's sauna is the route to a *corpore sano*.

CHANGE FOR THE ROCK

The call for a modern Gibraltar deserves to be heard

Peter Caruana, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, will shortly ask the new Labour Government to confer "a new status" on the Rock. As we report today, his idea is for the 284-year-old colony to secure a political arrangement with Britain akin to that of Guernsey or the other Channel Islands.

Mr Caruana's call is part of a welcome determination to construct a modern Gibraltar. The colony's constitution, put in place in 1969, needs clear reform. A set of rules that may have been adequate when the Rock was wholly reliant on the Ministry of Defence is now ill-suited to the aspirations of a dynamic people. Gibraltar's economy, no longer dependent on defence-related MoD expenditure, has acquired a new maturity. Its constitution, too, deserves to evolve.

The colony's Chief Minister, who is a source of good sense, is right to seek a "Guernsey-like" status for Gibraltar. The process of change will be arduous. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will need to give it vigorous attention. But the project is imaginative and provides a way for Gibraltar to divest itself of its colonial status (which, however benign, rankles with Gibraltarians) without cutting cherished ties to Britain. In fact, by becoming a dependency, Gibraltar will acquire both an enhanced degree of autonomy as well as a greater element of integration with Britain.

Once the Rock is a colony no longer, the post of Governor will be abolished, ridding Gibraltar of a symbol which many of its citizens now resent. The recent appointment of Sir Richard Luce — the first civilian, with an unimpressive record on the Falklands, when a junior minister — has robbed the job of some of its lustre. The Rock no longer needs a Governor.

A new non-colonial status would also see the transfer of responsibility for Gibraltar to the Home Office, plucking the "problem" from the grasp of the Foreign Office. This would, of course, give London a greater role in some areas of Gibraltar's internal affairs, such as law enforcement. Yet given the continuing Spanish complaints about smuggling, this should work to the Rock's diplomatic advantage.

Spain, surely, will object to any change in Gibraltar's status. But it has no legal ground for doing so. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht, under which the Crown acquired title to Gibraltar in perpetuity, does not forbid a more modern political arrangement. Mr Caruana seeks self-determination for his people. Pursuit of the "Guernsey model" is an imaginative route to self-government that stops short of independence. Such change might not have been necessary at all had Spain shown more imagination in its own dealings with the Rock.

Qualities required of the Tory leader

From Mrs Gillian Shephard, MP for Norfolk South West (Conservative), and others

Sir, We are amongst those MPs who have been actively working to elect Peter Lilley the next leader of the Conservative Party. We share your positive assessment of him (leading article, June 6).

Peter Lilley offers a rare combination of consistency, intellect, determination and proven effectiveness. He has the strength of purpose and of intellect to restore unity to the Conservative Party, to renew its policies and to rebuild a broadly based party. In short, Peter Lilley is the person best able to destroy the credibility of the Labour Government in the Commons and provide direction and leadership for our party.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN SHEPHARD,
DAVID AMESS,
JOHN BERCOW,

MICHAEL COLVIN,
PATRICK CORMACK,
ERIC FORTH,
NICK GIBB,

PHILIP HAMMOND,
GERALD HOWARTH,
BERNARD JENKIN,
ROBERT KEY,

PIERS MERCHANT,
RICHARD SPRING,
ROBERT SYMS,
ANDREW TYRIE,

NIGEL WATERSON,
DAVID WILLETTS,
JOHN WHITTINGDALE,
Campaign for Peter Lilley,
Gayfere House,
22-23 Gayfere Street, SW1,
June 9.

From Mr Duncan Reed and others

Sir, Unlike the former university students whose letter you publish this morning, we believe that Michael Howard is the best man to lead the attack on Labour in Parliament and to restore the fortunes of the Conservative Party across the United Kingdom and across the generations. Younger people are attracted, perhaps above all, by a strong sense of ideological conviction.

Mr Howard combines clear principles with a matchless record of loyalty and achievement. He commands the respect and support of a broad range of Conservative opinion — quite apart from the appeal he possesses across the country as a result of his success at the Home Office. He is a man who gets things done — and there is much to do.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN REED
(Chairman, Cambridge University Conservative Association, 1994),
ANDY DAVIES
(Chairman, Greater London Conservative Students, 1997),
NICKI GRIFFITH
(Chairman, Wessex Area Young Conservatives, 1995-97),
DAN HANNAN
(President, Oxford University Conservative Association, 1993),
GRAHAM MONTGOMERY
(Chairman, Northern Ireland Young Conservatives, 1997),
Michael Howard Campaign,
8 Lord North Street, SW1,
June 9.

From Sir Julian Critchley

Sir, Mr Harold Macmillan, when Prime Minister, made much of this dictum:

The leader of a party must first dominate the chamber of the House of Commons. When he has done so, he will dominate the party in Parliament. Once that is achieved, he will carry the country.

Macmillan followed his own advice in 1957, when the Tory party was in disarray, and the victory of 1959 was the result. Of the assortment of candidates putting themselves forward for the leadership of the Tory party today, only Kenneth Clarke is capable of taking that essential first step, namely the dominance of the House of Commons; when he has done so the rest will surely follow.

Yours etc,

JULIAN CRITCHLEY
(Conservative MP for Aldershot, 1970-97),
19 Broad Street, Ludlow, Shropshire,
June 9.

From Miss Beryl M. Goldsmith

Sir, "Getting Westminster right will bring the upstroke in membership", writes Matthew Parris ("Tories need votes, not roots", June 6). Precisely. It will also restore confidence and faith, for it is the arena of the House of Commons which will count in the next few years.

If the new leader mounts and sustains an effective and essentially intelligent attack on Blair, success will rapidly flow to supporters and former supporters as it did in the Eighties. What joy to read such absolute truth!

"We need to see a boss at Westminster, not a chaplain, a glorified party manager, a salesman or a communications supremo".

What further joy if the most serious contender, who has not hosted a mass of drinks parties, lunches and grinning pretensions throughout the campaign, namely John Redwood, was given the opportunity to lead, lead, lead.

Yours faithfully,
BERYL M. GOLDSMITH,
34 Thomas More House,
Barbican, EC2,
June 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Grass roots 'bloodied but unbowed'

From Mrs Patricia A. Fea

Sir, The article by Matthew Parris today ("Tories need votes, not roots") is a distillation of all the reasons why the Conservative Party lost the last election so catastrophically.

Mr Parris, a former Conservative MP, apparently believes that only MPs should determine policy; that the views of party activists don't matter; that financial contributions of party members form a negligible percentage of the party income, and therefore don't matter either; that any idea that party representation in local government forms a sound foundation on which to build is derisory; and so, by implication, that local councillors don't matter.

This was indeed the attitude of many Conservative members of the last Government, which led to the result of May 1. A parliamentary party which treats its own voluntary workers with contempt is hardly likely to show a more listening ear to the wider electorate.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA A. FEA,
Pebworth, Letchworth, Herts.,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
June 6.

From Mr Ronald M. Bell

Sir, Bloodied but unbowed must be the way to describe the Tory troops in the North West — though the picture is significantly different from the one you paint (reports, June 6).

While Bolton South East Conservatives may have cause to lament the "almost terminal decline" of their association, other constituencies in the North West report a wholly different set of circumstances.

In Labour-held Warrington South, where the Labour Party significantly tightened its grip on May 1, membership of the Conservative Association is more than 450, with 23 new members joining this year alone, and new branches formed in the area. Bury South, captured from the Tories, reports that eight new members have joined since the general election.

Tory-held Westmorland and Lonsdale has recruited 100 new members this year alone, without a specific

membership drive. The Young Conservatives report an even more rosy picture in Cumbria, with a whole band of youngsters ready to fight the Tory corner when the time comes.

Nobody can deny that things have changed dramatically since the high point of the 1950s — but your gloom does not reflect imminent doom for the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD M. BELL,
Regional Director,
Conservative Central Office,
North West Region,
Eric Taylor House,
17 St Mary's Place, Bury, Lancashire,
June 6.

From Mr Nicholas Cooper

Sir, Our achievements in the Cities of London and Westminster do not match the negative picture of the state of the Conservative Party reflected in today's issue.

Over the last three years we have enrolled more than 800 new members, and last year alone we raised £50,000 which we were able to hand over to Conservative Central Office.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS COOPER
(Vice-Chairman),
The Cities of London
and Westminster
Conservative Association,
90 Ebury Street, SW1,
June 6.

From Mr Victor Black

Sir, John Lloyd today ("The lady is not for imitating") analyses the relationship between Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher. In doing so, he clearly illustrates what I believe to be her single most important contribution to the history of this country: she cured the Labour Party of socialism.

This not only made his election victory possible, but let lifelong Tories, like me, view it with equanimity and cautious goodwill.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR BLACK,
Lower Farm House,
Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire,
June 6.

Learning to read

From the Director of Volunteer Reading Help

Sir, In your leading article, "Righting reading" (June 4), you correctly state that the problem of low standards of literacy should be addressed at an earlier stage in primary school, but go on to say that, with good teaching, most children from any social background can succeed. I believe that, in many cases, success depends on more than good teaching.

Any teacher will be able to identify children who are "parent dependent" (have parental support) and those who are "teacher dependent" (have little or no such support). For any learning to be successful there must be a close interaction between an adult and a child, and a teacher just does not have the time to fulfil this role.

However, there are many in the community trained by Volunteer Reading Help to give "teacher dependent" children in primary school regular support and encouragement to read. These volunteers can share the joy of books and give children the confidence to succeed. In my experience teachers welcome such confidence.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MARTINEAU,
Director, Volunteer Reading Help,
Room 438, High Holborn House,
49-51 Bedford Row, WC1,
June 4.

Dialysis treatment

From Dr I. H. Khan

Sir, Your report (early editions, May 31) on Wiltshire Health Authority's decision to publish guidelines for selecting patients for dialysis treatment in kidney failure is disturbing. Kidney dialysis or transplantation are the only means by which patients with kidney failure can be kept alive.

The United Kingdom already lags behind most western countries in the numbers of patients who are offered treatment in kidney failure. We dialyse around 80 patients per million of the population per year compared with around 200 per million in the United States. Rationing in renal dialysis is already a reality in this country.

The UK Renal Association's guidelines on standards of treatment in renal failure and the recently published NHS Executive's National Renal Review for England have highlighted the need for increased resources for dialysis treatment in the UK.

There is no crystal ball which allows us to foresee how well or how long a patient will survive after commencing dialysis treatment. As a practicing nephrologist I and other colleagues are frequently faced with the difficult choice of whether or not to treat elderly and infirm patients with kidney failure. In such cases usually a "trial" of dialysis is offered. It is therefore not uncommon to have patients well into their eighties or older who do well on treatment. The real cost of treatment is incurred by long-term patients who do well and survive.

Yours sincerely,
IZHAR H. KHAN
(Consultant nephrologist),
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary,
101 South Anderson Drive, Aberdeen.

Panorama's time-slot

From Sir Paul Fox

Sir, On Monday, June 2, for the first time, BBC's *Panorama* ended outside peak-time. Shifting it from 9.30pm to 10pm diminishes the programme and the BBC.

What distinguished *Panorama* from other current affairs programmes in the past was the calibre of its reporters: Robin Day, Ludovic Kennedy, Robert Kee, Michael Charlton and the late James Mossman. Apart from Tom Mangold, who can name a single *Panorama* reporter today? Other than the interview with Diana, Princess of Wales, who can recall a single *Panorama* programme over the last two years?

In the US, every Sunday evening, the CBS programme *60 Minutes* and its team of correspondents underline that a programme featuring distinguished reporters can still be required viewing. For the last 20 years it has always been in the top ten programmes.

The BBC governors should show their mettle, seek an inquiry into why *Panorama* has been displaced by a situation comedy and publish the findings.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FOX
(Managing Director,
BBC Network Television, 1988-91),
10 Charterhouse Square, EC1,
June 6.

From the Chairman of Cardiff Community Healthcare Trust

Sir, Wiltshire Health Authority is right to give guidelines in the selection of patients for kidney treatment. Prolongation of life by dialysis or kidney transplantation is not always appropriate because of many other health factors.

In individual cases, the decision is sometimes very difficult and guidelines are helpful. This should not be called rationing.

However, if eligible patients are to be denied such treatment because Wiltshire Health Authority says it cannot afford to treat them, then that is an entirely different matter which Swindon and District Community Health Council are right to question.

Since it is stated that only 1 per cent (£3.3 million) of the health authority budget is spent on kidney patients, what is happening to the remaining £26.7 million?

The Community Health Council must assure itself that the health authority is spending its entire budget wisely and that there really is no money left to treat all those patients with kidney failure who would benefit.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROSBY,
Chairman,
Cardiff Community Healthcare Trust,
Trenwedd,
Fairwater Road, Llandaff, Cardiff,
June 2.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Cormorant effect on fish stocks

From Mr John Bailey

Sir, As an angler and a naturalist, I agree with the writer of your leading article of June 5 ("The finest fisher-bird") that the cormorant is a superb fish-catching machine. However, it is not operating in freshwaters of plenty as you would suggest.

The vast majority of inland lakes and rivers in this country are not stocked by man but rely on natural recruitment which, in most cases, is not enough to sustain viable and self-perpetuating populations. In my home county of Norfolk I estimate that there are around 20 miles of important river, of which around 15 are regularly stocked by clubs for trout fishing. Throughout the rest of these rivers, chub and dace stocks have declined horrifically through a mixture of causes: these include dredging, chemical run-off from the land and abstraction.

Of around 200 significant still waters, perhaps a dozen are stocked with trout and slightly more with carp, though these fish are generally too large for cormorants to eat. As for the rest, native rudd, tench and bream stocks are finding life intolerably hard in estate lakes, pits, ponds and broads. Here, further water mismanagement and neglect is reducing their numbers, in many cases to the point of extinction.

A glut of cormorants does not help our native freshwater fish. I would argue that the beautiful, olive-skinned tench or the golden dinner-plate that is a rudd are every bit as worthy of our understanding and protection as is the cormorant itself.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BAILEY
(Author, *Tales from the Riverbank*,
Orchard House, Guntun Park,
Hanworth, Norwich, Norfolk).

From Mr Gordon Bird

Sir, Your leading article today highlighted the hostility of Britain's freshwater anglers to our native cormorant, which has moved inland in increasing numbers to feed on prized fisheries. But the real culprits are these anglers' professional relatives, the deep-sea trawlersmen who, with single catches exceeding 60 tonnes, are the prime cause of the ocean's dwindling harvest and the cormorants' inland retreat.

Unless more of these mariners can be persuaded to hang up their nets, the prospects for cormorants and all other seafood diners looks bleak.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BIRD,
The Holme, 21 Post Street,
Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire,
June 5.

Good sports

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, Has anybody perfected a TV control unit that deletes the idiots' chorus from Test match transmissions? If so, please will they send me details. Alternatively, the producers could tone down the crowd "atmosphere" so that those of us who prefer to watch the game for its finer points can do so without the endless chanting that spoils it for us.

Producers should also try to show us opponents applauding players who reach centuries. Good sportsmanship is still around, but TV seems to prefer to broadcast the baying masses rather than the very important good example of true sportsmen appreciating the efforts of their opponents.

Yours faithfully,
IAN G. GREGORY,
18 The Avenue,
Basford, Newcastle, Staffordshire,
June 9.

From Mr Marcel Berenblut

Sir, Sitting in synagogue on Saturday, I was struggling to keep my thoughts away from events at Edgbaston and concentrate on a somewhat dull reading from the Bible (I Numbers 1-4, 20).

I was rewarded for my efforts just seven verses from the end, when I encountered the instruction (iv. 13) "And they shall take away the ashes . . .".

Yours faithfully,
MARCEL BERENBLUT,
53 Corringham Road,
Wembley Park, Middlesex,
June 9.

Sales patter

From Mr Gordon Proud

Sir, Having endured a long period during which retailers' assistants and waiters have replaced the words "Thank you" with "Cheers", I find that many are now endorsing one's purchase with "Good choice".

Obviously, this proves not to be the case. Yours faithfully,
GORDON PROUD,
18 Barton Farm, Cerne Abbas, Dorset,
June 9.

Worried to death

From Dr John Edmunds

Sir, "Mad sheep" fears prompt slaughter" (today's headline).

Well, wouldn't you?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN EDMUNDS,
19 Pembridge Crescent, Wil,
June 6.

OBITUARIES

MAGDA GABOR



Left to right, Magda, Jolie, Eva and Zsa Zsa Gabor in the family Palm Springs jewellery salon

Magda Gabor, former actress and businesswoman, died in Rancho Mirage, California, on June 6 aged 78. She was born in Budapest in 1919.

The most retiring of the three Gabor sisters - if that term is appropriate to any member of a family of such stridently audible and visible propensities - Magda had the briefest of careers as an actress. She otherwise concentrated her energies on the jewellery boutiques she owned in Palm Springs and Miami, as well as in Europe. Like her sisters she also married prolifically, her final tally of six weddings outdoing that of her late youngest sister Eva, but falling short of the eight marriages entered into to date by Zsa Zsa.

The daughter of a Hungarian jeweller, Vilmos Gabor, and his wife Jolie, she was, like her sisters, the beneficiary of the sheer willpower of a mother who mapped out careers of great élan for all her daughters.

and then singlemindedly executed her gameplan. To equip her daughters for the brilliant marriages she expected them to make (she always felt that her own marriage had brought her down in the world) she sent them to the best schools in Europe. There they learnt to ride, play tennis, play the piano, and to acquire the kind of social polish, charm and, above all, blonde-tressed beauty which natural partners diamonds.

After leaving her finishing school in Lausanne, Magda made the first of her marriages, to an RAF pilot. But this was not at all what Mama Jolie had in mind and the family gravitated to Hollywood in her wake in the 1930s. Her second and third marriages were to New York lawyers and the fourth was to a Hungarian nobleman.

Marriage No 5 was to the British-born actor George Sanders (aka "the cad" through his playing of such film roles). Sanders had already married into the Gabor clan since a previous trip to the register office had been with

Magda's sister Zsa Zsa. Sanders' tilt at marriage to Sanders was to last far less long than Zsa Zsa's and within two months the couple were citing "irreconcilable differences" as they moved towards an annulment in the California courts.

One of the stumbling blocks was, apparently, that Magda's appetite for parties was considerably greater than that of her exasperated spouse; indeed, he died not long after their divorce.

In the 1950s Magda Gabor had acted briefly on radio with her mother, and in 1953 the three sisters had a stage act called *This Is Our Life* at the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas. *This Is Our Life* featured the Gabor girls singing and dancing as well as having something of the nature of a chat show.

was surprisingly good, and Magda, who was far less well-known at that time than her siblings, was adjudged to have carried it.

Her business acumen was also useful to the enterprise since it was she who arranged what was generally regarded as being an extremely lucrative contract. The show had from the outset been a high-risk venture, since it pitted the sisters against Marlene Dietrich, then the top Las Vegas nightclub act.

But, apart from that episode, and a flirtation with television, acting did not really appeal to Magda. Her forte was the string of jewellery boutiques she operated with her mother in New York, Palm Beach, Paris and London.

After the breakdown of her marriage to George Sanders she married, in 1972, a Hungarian economic consultant. He predeceased her. There were no children of any of her marriages.

Eva Gabor died in 1995. Her mother Jolie died in April 1997, and only her sister Zsa Zsa survives.

TOM TAYLOR



Thomas Taylor, deputy principal of Henley Management College, died of cancer on May 25 aged 60. He was born on October 6, 1936.

TOM TAYLOR was a taxman suspicious of the effects of high marginal taxes, and a management specialist who, as a former civil servant, was sceptical of interference by the cumbersome machinery of government.

His career spanned two different worlds. As a tax inspector on secondment to Somerset House, he was one of the architects of VAT, the reform of corporation tax and an early advocate (in the late 1960s) of reduced higher rates of marginal tax, which he saw as self-defeating. In 1970 he moved to the Henley Management College (then the Administrative Staff College), of which he was later to become deputy principal.

Thomas Cecil Leonard Taylor was born in Buckingham, the elder son of Leonard and Emily Taylor. His father was a pharmacist and his mother the daughter of a builder who served as Mayor of the town.

He was educated at Magdalen College School, Brackley, the Royal Latin School, Buckingham, and New College, Oxford, where he read Modern History. From Oxford he joined the Civil Service, opting, unusually, for a place in the Inland Revenue's tax inspectorate, because at university he had been fascinated by 19th-century tax policy.

The seven years he spent in the tax inspectorate were the minimum to secure an appointment as a district inspector of taxes, though in the event he occupied such posts for only a few months. The Board of Inland Revenue had a different career path in mind for him, so he passed into the administrative class as a principal in the board's secretaries' office.

Within a year he was deeply involved in a series of major tax reforms. Three areas of the work made an impact on Whitehall. First, there was a brief encounter with the embryonic Value Added Tax, before the decision was made to opt instead for a system easier for Customs and Excise to handle. Second, but of much greater importance, was the major reform of corporation tax; and third was the evaluation of the advantages

and disadvantages of a wealth tax. It was intellectually challenging work, made more fascinating by the ideas streaming from the special advisers to the successive Chancellors of the time.

One controversial issue was the effect of very high marginal rates of income tax. Did they or did they not have adverse economic consequences? Ministers were usually advised that academic research firmly supported the view that high marginal rates had very little effect on work incentives. But Taylor believed that this took too little account of managers' actual behaviour. He felt that there were significant potential gains to be won from a major reform of the higher rate system. He was increasingly convinced that the Treasury and other government departments needed to know more

about management practices.

During this period, the Inland Revenue took a decision which Taylor from then on regarded as one of the turning points of his life. This was to send him on the 11-week general management course at the Administrative Staff College, Henley-on-Thames. He came to see this as crucial because it was at Henley that he discovered an interest in management and management development that could never be fully satisfied within the Civil Service. From then on, he found his frustration with the organisational deficiencies of a large government department increasingly hard to bear.

Abandoning his career in taxation was not an easy decision, but fate stepped in. After a chance encounter on Waterloo Bridge, Taylor's dilemma was solved when the

principal of the Henley college, J. P. Martin-Bates, telephoned him one evening to see whether he would be interested in a one or possibly two-year appointment.

The work was to be primarily in the development of a course on managerial finance, to complement the work being done by the college on corporate finance and the raising of capital. Taylor accepted, and two years later his position became permanent.

At the college he devised and taught a number of courses in managerial finance, financial planning and control. The subjects were new in management schools, and so was his approach. Within a short time, he had taken over as director of studies of the major programmes, and a few years later he became deputy principal. He retired in 1995 because of failing health.

Many middle managers on Henley courses were keen to fathom what they saw as the mysteries of finance and accounting. Taylor gave them the confidence to challenge the accountancy profession, which he thought held too much power in British industry.

He was also sceptical about the effectiveness of government involvement in industry, long before this view became the orthodoxy in the 1980s under Margaret Thatcher. This derived from his observations of the limited effectiveness of government at first hand, before he joined the college.

As deputy principal, in charge of the college's finances, he had the opportunity to practise what he preached. He was keen on detail and control, but only when it was helpful in making decisions and did not unduly constrain creativity. He believed that staff are most valuable when managed on a loose rein, and his firm grasp of facts and figures was balanced by a sensitivity to the views and feelings of others.

Students, managers and the Henley faculty all relied on his wise counsel. In all that he did he showed clear-headed competence, analytical ability, calmness and dignity.

His family was the centre of his life, and he gained strength from their support. He is survived by his wife Doreen, whom he married in 1967, and by their two sons.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ROSE MONROE



Rose Will Monroe, American poster girl in the Second World War, died in Indiana on May 31 aged 77. She was born in Kentucky on March 12, 1920.

ROSE WILL MONROE was the poster girl for the American war effort, her image plastered on hoardings from coast to coast, as she flexed her muscles and urged women to go to work in armaments and munitions factories.

Yet she became a national icon almost by accident. Although she was generally credited with persuading 20 million women to join the wartime conveyor belts, her own journey to the factory floor was not motivated by patriotism at all.

Born in Kentucky, Monroe moved to the industrial state of Michigan at just about the time America came into the Second World War. But her motive for taking a job as a riveter was to feed her two young daughters. The previous year she had lost her husband in a car accident, and she went to work to meet a domestic, not a national, imperative.

Later, however, she became an arch-patriot after being "discovered" by the Hollywood actor Walter Pidgeon, who went on location to the factory in which she was

working to shoot a promotional film in aid of the war effort.

Already, the song *Rosie the Riveter* by Kay Kyser (inspired by a Long Island woman factory worker, named Rosalind F. Walter) was a hit on the radio, and when Pidgeon learnt that a woman riveter by the name of Rose worked at the factory, he asked to meet her. Subsequently he invited her to join him in the film, which was shown in cinemas across the continent, but she was passed over because she was a single mother.

Once the war was over, Monroe, like thousands of other women, was forced out of factory life when the GIs returned home. Nevertheless, she remained a tireless worker, driving a taxi, running a



beauty salon and founding a building company. Rose Builders.

In her fifties she fulfilled her lifelong dream by becoming a pilot, but paid a heavy price for her ambition when, in 1978, she lost both a kidney and the vision in her left eye as the result of an accident in a light aeroplane.

She is survived by her two daughters.

THE FAR EAST. CHINESE CONFESSION TO ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PEKING, June 9
Sir Claude MacDonald signed today with the Tsung-Tsi-Yamen a Convention leasing to Great Britain certain territories around Hong-kong for the better protection of the colony. The Convention signed to-day embodies the agreement made on May 2 for a lease of the territory on the mainland behind Kowloon up to a line joining Mirs Bay and Deep Bay, as well as of the neighbouring island of Lan-tao. There are some important additions. China retains the north shores of Mirs Bay and Deep Bay, but leases to Great Britain all the waters of both bays, reserving only the right to use them for her own ships whether belligerent or neutral. The total area leased will be under British jurisdiction, except within the native city of Kowloon. The lease is for 99 years, and becomes operative on July 1.

Our Peking Correspondent this morning announces the definitive con-

ON THIS DAY

June 10, 1898

Under the agreement reached on May 27, 1898, Hong Kong will soon become part of the People's Republic of China.

The Treaty of Nanjing in 1842 formally ceded the island to Britain.

clution of the negotiations with China for the much-needed extension of the British limits in Hong-kong...

Hitherto the colony has been confined to the island of Hong-kong proper, which we obtained in 1842 by the Treaty of Nan-king, and of the small patch upon the mainland known as British Kowloon, ceded to us by the Peking Convention of 1860. This small district, which lies directly north of Victoria, the capital of the colony, has proved of great value, both for the construction of docks and accommodation for the increasing population and for the erection of manufacturing. But it had not even the

ghost of a Hinterland. It stopped short at an imaginary line drawn east and west a little south of the native city of Kowloon.

By the Convention of yesterday we acquire a lease not only of the whole promontory of Kowloon, but of the considerable peninsula from which it projects. The south-western coast of this peninsula is the north-eastern shore of the Lia-mun Pass, one of the main entrances from the open sea into Hong-kong roads.

The tenancy of Lan-tao Island confers upon us similar advantages on the west of Hong-kong Island. Ships making for the port sail on the west side of Lan-tao Island and then round its northern point through the pass, which has been commanded upon both shores by Chinese territory until now. It will be seen by this description that we have not asked from the Chinese Government anything but what was absolutely indispensable for the military and civil necessities of our colony.

Receiver appointed at Global

The Official Receiver has been appointed as liquidator to Global Foreign Exchange Corporation, a forex dealing firm that sought business from private investors. The appointment follows an investigation and subsequent legal action by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog.

The SIB alleged that Global, based in the City of London, was carrying on unauthorised investment business in the highly volatile foreign exchange markets. A formal application by Global to be regulated by the Securities and Investments Board, the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, was rejected in May.

Ideal progress

Fear of computer crashes among large businesses helped Ideal Hardware, the data back-up specialist, to return record profits last year. Sales of its tape back-up systems doubled in the year to May 3. Pre-tax profit was £9.6 million (£8.3 million) and earnings 29.9p (24.7p) a share. A second interim dividend of 3p is due on July 28. The company plans a third payout.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.28
Austria Sch	20.59	19.04
Belgium F	60.59	56.03
Canada \$	2.28	2.30
Cyprus Cyp	1.31	1.38
Denmark Kr	6.55	6.55
Finland Mark	8.92	8.92
France F	1.93	1.93
Germany DM	8.06	2.73
Greece Dr	13.39	12.25
Hong Kong \$	7.75	7.75
Ireland P	1.13	1.05
Israel Sh	2.28	2.28
Italy Lira	202.2	202.2
Japan Yen	108.00	108.00
Malta	0.65	0.65
Netherlands G	3.23	3.23
New Zealand \$	2.28	2.28
Norway Kr	12.16	11.31
Portugal Esc	204.90	274.00
S. Africa R	8.05	7.13
Spain Ptas	247.50	230.00
Sweden Kr	13.41	12.35
Switzerland F	2.48	2.29
Turkey Lira	244.99	225.849
USA \$	1.73	1.600

Notes for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates may be involved for travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading.

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Hyder warns windfall levy could harm investment plans

HYDER, the multi-utility, has given a warning that the proposed windfall tax could scupper discount schemes and environmental investment programmes. The water and electricity group reported a near doubling of its full-year profits yesterday.

Hyder said: "We seek fairness and appropriateness in the basis of application of the levy and in its coverage and believe it should be at a level where we would not be obliged to re-examine our discretionary and environmental investments and voluntary customer discounts within the water and sewerage business."

Hyder submitted comments on the tax to the Government, which is expected to give a response this week. Paul Twamley, finance director, said: "Discretionary rebates ... may become vulnerable in the event that the windfall tax was too onerous."

Graham Hawker, chief executive, said that the simplest way of calculating the tax would be to base it on published information such as



Graham Hawker, chief executive, visiting Hyder's new customer centre

turnover or operating profit. Hyder, which was formed when Welsh Water took over South Wales Electricity last year, said that its move had been "a great success". It

claimed to have saved a total of £11.5 million by integrating the two utilities.

In the first full-year results since the takeover, pre-tax profits increased to £208 mil-

lion from £113 million. In the twelve months to March 31, earnings per share went up to 118.6p from 68.8p. The total dividend was lifted from 38.7p to 43.9p. The final dividend,

up from 26.1p to 29.3p, will be paid on October 6.

Mr Twamley said staffing levels had fallen to 5,050 from 5,490 over the year and were expected to reach 4,500 by 1999 under existing cost-cutting plans. "What we're trying to do now is to see whether there is a case for putting some of the operational activities together," he said. "I believe there is, in which case we will have another tranche of cost savings and merger savings coming through in the next couple of years. That will include job cuts."

Performance at the electricity division was more spectacular than at the water division. Of the total turnover of £1.14 billion, up from £651 million, electricity accounted for £520 million, up from £102 million, while water only increased from £420 million to £424 million.

Leakage levels are said to have been reduced significantly to below the national average and are on course to meet the regulator's target of reduction by one third in the ten years to 2005.

Ruling due on £46m Grid funds appeal

A DECISION is expected today on a High Court appeal concerning a £46 million pension fund surplus that could have far-reaching implications for the electricity industry. National Grid has asked the High Court to overturn a ruling by the Pensions Ombudsman, who ordered the company to repay the £46 million into its pension scheme. If the appeal fails, it could cost the privatised electricity industry £1 billion-plus and benefit 200,000 former workers.

In February, Julian Farrand, the Ombudsman, ruled that National Grid was wrong to divert the surplus to pay for redundancies and early retirement and ordered the company to reimburse its scheme. National Grid appealed, saying it believed that valuation of the surplus was properly made. The issue could affect the 21 privatised electricity companies and other industries operating pension schemes.

Hickson chief to leave

MIKE FEARFIELD is stepping down as managing director of the performance chemicals division of Hickson International and is expected to be paid £180,000 compensation for loss of office. His job disappeared after the troubled business sold most of the operations he ran. Mr Fearfield had a two-year contract worth £120,000 a year, but a spokesman said there would be "mitigation" in the settlement. Hickson has had a shake-up since the appointment of David Wilbraham as chief executive last year.

Treant profits fall

TREANT, the fragrances and oils group, paid Norman Talbot, its former finance director, £221,000 as compensation for loss of office after he left by mutual agreement last November. Treant's pre-tax profits for the half year to March 31 fell from £1.31 million to £257,000. Geoffrey Bovill, Treant's chairman, is pessimistic about the current year because of problems affecting a large customer and a weak performance in the first three months of this year. Earnings per share fell from 9.19p to 1.85p and the dividend is held at 1.9p.

AIT plans full listing

AIT GROUP, the software company that specialises in the retail financial services sector, plans to seek a full listing on the stock market this year. The company, founded in 1986, uses its TSS software system as the basis for bespoke applications to integrate existing mainframe systems with diverse client-server technologies. In the year to March 31, 1996 the company earned pre-tax profits of £1.1 million on revenues of £7.5 million, compared with £500,000 and £4.2 million respectively in the preceding 12 months.

Critchley sales improve

CRITCHLEY GROUP, whose shares slid from 920p in January to just below 600p, sought to reassure investors yesterday by claiming success in mitigating the adverse impact of the strong pound by cutting costs and sourcing materials overseas. The manufacturer of electrical-cable accessories reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £8.5 million for the year to March 31 on sales up 6 per cent, to £45.9 million. A final dividend of 8.5p a share makes a total of 12.5p, an increase of 15 per cent. The shares rose 22½p to 612½p.

Four deny plotting goldmine fraud

By A CORRESPONDENT

A DIRECTOR of Butte Mining, a goldmining company, "lined his pockets" with shares worth "many millions of pounds" by cheating its investors, many of them pensioners, a jury was told at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Clive Smith, 50, was the "moving spirit" behind Butte Mining, in which investors were encouraged to buy shares at its flotation in 1987 and in a fund-raising year later. However, the value of precious metals and minerals in an old-established mine at Butte, Montana, were deliberately inflated, said Douglas Day, opening for the prosecution. Mr Smith was "enthusiastically helped" by three other

businessmen, Herbert Bichan, 53, Kenneth Clews, 48, and John Clarke, 50, the prosecution alleged.

The men also failed to disclose, when the company was floated, that they expected to benefit from the £60 million raised from investors. It was alleged. In the prospectus for potential investors, a "golden image" of the company had been presented. The mine resources were estimated to realise a value of £292 million, but that was a gross exaggeration, the court was told.

Mr Smith, Mr Clews, Mr Bichan and Mr Clarke deny two charges of conspiracy to defraud. The trial was adjourned until today.

Pearson pulls out of US magazine bid

PEARSON, the publisher of the Financial Times, has pulled out of the \$200 million battle to buy Institutional Investor, the US financial magazine (Jason Nisse writes).

The UK group dropped the bid because it could not justify the high price that Institutional Investor was expected to command.

Pearson is keen to expand its financial publishing interests worldwide and has joined a consortium attempting to take over the Australian Financial Review, part of the John Fairfax group of newspapers, which also includes the Melbourne Age and The Sydney Morning Herald.

Bankers to share \$541m cash fund

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE top 60 partners and senior executives of a private San Francisco investment bank are to share in a \$541 million cash pot after being acquired by BankAmerica Corporation, the third largest bank in the United States.

The multimillion-dollar deal to buy Robertson Stephens, a private investment banking and management firm, is based on the retention of more than 60 key officers for at least three to four years after the company becomes part of BankAmerica.

The partners at Robertson Stephens, which last year completed 125 equity offerings valued at \$8.6 billion, will receive an initial payment

worth \$245 million. A further \$225 million will be paid as "compensation" over three years to those managing directors who stay.

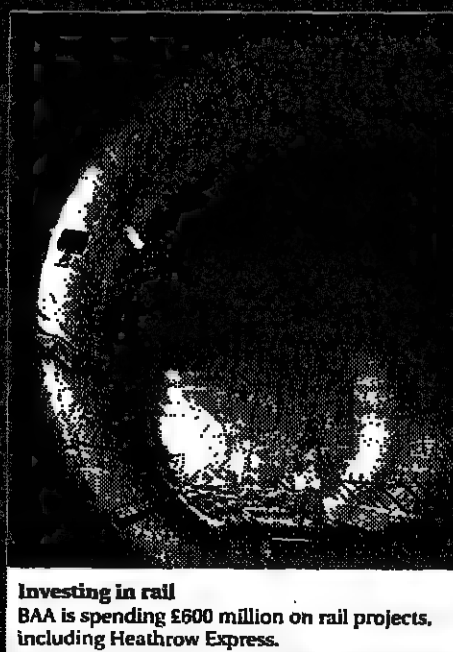
The remaining \$70 million will comprise a "retention" pool to be paid as further compensation over four years to certain managing directors and other key employees who stay with the enlarged BankAmerica group.

Robertson Stephens, which has 750 employees in offices in New York, Chicago, Boston, Tokyo and London, also completed 50 advisory transactions last year valued at more than \$9 billion and 15 private placements worth about \$180 million.

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travel on business or on holiday, to visit friends and relatives or to share in a wide variety of international leisure activity.

To meet this ever-increasing demand, the country needs 21st century airport facilities, providing high quality customer service and maintaining the highest level of safety and security. And to fund the cost of these facilities, including the new £440 million Heathrow Express rail service, the company needs to be profitable.

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For a copy of the full BAA Annual Report, telephone 0171 932 6654 or write to: Corporate & Public Affairs, BAA plc, 130 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LQ.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1997

Revenue	£1,373m	up 9.6%
Operating profit	£491m	up 10.8%
Profit before tax and exceptional items	£444m	up 10.2%
Profit before tax*	£407m	down 2.6%
Earnings per share before exceptional items	32.0p	up 10.3%
Total dividend	12.4p	up 10.2%
UK Passenger numbers	98.0m	up 4.6%

*Profit before tax was affected by a reconsideration of BAA's policy on capitalisation of interest.

BAA 
Shaping up for the 21st century

Fat chance for pear-shaped EMU



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

I was bad luck for Chancellor Gordon Brown yesterday. There he was in statesman-like mode, telling his European colleagues that their task was to cut red tape and create jobs while all around him was disarray.

As the French and Germans scrapped over the rules for monetary union, the Chancellor must have been pondering whether this was a club he really wanted to join.

It was inevitable that the political upheavals in the two countries which have driven EMU must soon spill over into with the play of revaluing gold reserves, he is now hoping that selling government-owned property might help to produce a more flattering set of figures. But this is merely disguising the problem: the underlying shape will remain the same.

If the German leader could swallow his pride, he would call for a delay in the rush toward EMU, and our own Government could sensibly begin to pursue some of the ideas of which Mr Brown spoke yesterday.

There is scope to develop the single market in Europe, and British business would benefit from it. These siren voices in industry which were once so loud in their demands for a single currency have quietened.

The latest figures on manufacturing output show that our exporters are flourishing, despite

wingers in France have made it quite clear that they do not share Chancellor Kohl's view that EMU is an imperative.

And neither is it. Chancellor Kohl is scrambling around in undignified fashion trying to find ways of squeezing into a tight corset - and who would find that more uncomfortable than the corpulent Kohl. Having failed with the play of revaluing gold reserves, he is now hoping that selling government-owned property might help to produce a more flattering set of figures. But this is merely disguising the problem: the underlying shape will remain the same.

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The latest figures on manufacturing output show that our exporters are flourishing, despite

their regular squeals over the strength of sterling. Their profit margins may be feeling the pinch but they are not evaporating.

Uncertainty is far more debilitating to industry than the lack of a European currency. The current fiasco of when and how the EMU will land must now be brought to a halt. Then Chancellor Brown and his Euro-colleagues can concentrate on cutting red tape rather than tangling it.

Minister winning campaign meddles

Nigel Griffiths, the endearingly enthusiastic Consumer Affairs Minister, could barely contain his excitement yesterday as he listed the areas in which he intends to meddle.

First of all comes the extraordinary process which, in England, takes the place of the

straightforward transaction that buying and selling a house should be. Quite rightly, Mr Griffiths wants to put a stop to gazumping. In any other sphere of buyer and seller agreement then a verbal contract is thought to have been established. Only in the vitally important area of home-buying is it open to the vendor to decide he can do better by ditching one purchaser in favour of another.

Mr Griffiths may be biased in his belief that importing the Scottish system would deal with the problem - like the Chancellor, he heads from over the border. There may be other solutions that could work as well but any of them would require the commitment of the nation's estate agents.

It would be cynical to remark that appealing to the better nature of these people may not be enough to bring an end to sharp practice in the property world, but no doubt some will feel that

way. But while we wait for Mr Griffiths to legislate for change, there is comfort to be had from the fact that the agents are getting together to provide an ombudsman service for aggrieved customers. What a well-timed gesture.

Mr Griffiths's next target is petrol retailers. He is to ask the Office of Fair Trading to consider launching an inquiry into petrol retailing in Britain. John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, is likely to interpret this as a request he cannot refuse - after all, he has just had the President of the Board of Trade show him who is boss in the competition business by referring to the Monopolies Commission a deal he had waved through.

But his reasoning in this instance is less easy to define. Petrol stations have been closing at a phenomenal rate as the competition has raged across the forecourts. The Esso price watch led the way and supermarkets

plunged in to offer car drivers the best possible prices. The plucky company, Frost, lost 40 per cent of its sales volume last year as it refused to compete on price alone. Market forces have been working hard for the consumer in the petrol retailing business. If Mr Griffiths does not like it, then the omens are not good for business generally.

The right formula for a flotation?

A company is planning to float on the stock market, valued at a good seven-and-a-half times last year's turnover, buoyed by the prospects from pay-per-view TV. Sounds familiar. You could be forgiven for thinking this was a football float before realism set in during the spring. It is actually Formula One which, if it reaches its expected price tag of more than £1.5 billion, will be worth the same as four Manchester Uniteds. Is it worth that much?

If investors think it is, they should take a closer look. The business is run by an ageing mercurial entrepreneur, who is attempting to formalise many of the contracts that up until now

have been largely verbal. Formula One relies on the support of racing teams and track owners, which are waking up to the money that the middleman is making. This middleman pays himself £54 million and puts almost everything in his wife's name. He is also attempting to strike a pay-TV deal when there is a legal question mark about the competition issues surrounding the existing TV deals. Also the sponsors that made Formula One what it is are unhappy about pay-TV because it greatly reduces the audiences who watch the sport when compared with free TV channels.

Given this background it is no surprise the Salomon Brothers is finding it difficult to issue a timetable for the flotation of this business. The investment bank has made the City unhappy with its prevarication, and it will be an achievement to float it at all.

Sackcloth at Abbey

THE mea culpas from Abbey National yesterday related to the fact that the company spoke to the press before the Stock Exchange in ruling out a deal with NatWest. But shareholders may feel that they deserve something of an apology. If not a change of heart, a merger of the two businesses would bring benefits to both and the suggestion that Abbey chief executive, Peter Birch, was originally inclined towards the deal indicates as much.

Unigate and Dairy Crest return to talks

BY FRASER NELSON

UNIGATE, the St Ivel fresh foods and dairy products group, is understood to have reopened talks with Dairy Crest over the disposal of its £160 million cheese business.

City sources say that the company, which has long been trying to reduce its dependence on dairy products, has agreed to return to the negotiating table after Dairy Crest indicated it was prepared to pay a higher price for the cheeses.

Although neither company has confirmed it was ever in talks, it is widely understood in the City that they broke off earlier negotiations after Dairy Crest refused to pay more than £10 million for the business.

However, Dairy Crest - which is 60 per cent owned by farmers - is believed to have indicated that it may now be willing to offer a higher price. Analysts said that such a deal had strong industrial logic, because the cheeses would be much more valuable to Dairy Crest than Unigate.

One said: "Unigate knows its cheese division is not very prof-

itable. The only problem is that it does not need the money. It is already sitting with a £180 million cash pile that it does not know what to do with: an extra £10 million would just add to the problem."

Another sticking point understood to have halted the past negotiations is that any disposal of the cheese division would separate St Ivel Shape, the low-fat cheese, from St Ivel Gold and its other spread division.

Unigate's annual results show its cheese division returned sales of £160 million in the year to March 31, against group sales of £2.41 billion. While the division's profits were not disclosed, analysts estimate it made less than £5 million from the sales - a margin just above 3 per cent.

Ross Buckland, chief executive, said: "Cheese has been a good fit for us, but like most of our businesses it does not need to be part of Unigate. In the absence of somebody seeing it as a good opportunity for them, it will continue to make a good contribution to the group."

A strong contribution from its pigmeat and other non-dairy operations offset a £10.1 million decline in profits from dairy produce over the year to leave underlying pre-tax profits at £130 million - an expected increase of 3.4 per cent. After a £13.4 million exceptional charge, this fell to £116 million (£299 million).

Basic earnings dropped to 37.2p (113.2p) a share. The total payout rises to 20.2p (19.2p). A final 13.2p is due on August 5.

Tempus, page 30

Renold sets £21m record for profits

RENOLD, the manufacturer of chains and gears, earned record pre-tax profits of £21.5 million in the year to March 29, up by 15 per cent.

Peter Frost, chairman, said a strong performance in Britain and North America more than offset weak economic conditions in mainland Europe. Prospects in Europe were now improving, with order intake rising steadily.

Turnover was little changed at £180.3 million, up from £179.3 million, but trading profits improved to £22 million from £19.5 million. Earnings rose to 22.7p a share from 20.8p. A final dividend of 5.2p a share makes a total of 8p, up from 7p.

BY ROBERT MILLER
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

AILING banks and securities houses should no longer expect to be bailed out if they run into financial difficulties, the world's leading central bankers were told yesterday.

Wim Duisenberg, president of the Bank for International



Angus Crichton-Miller, left, and Richard Atkinson

Eurocamp's hotel breaks sell well

EUROCAMP, the holiday company, has seen a sharp rise in sales of its hotel short breaks in the first half of this year, it reported yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The increase led to a reduction in its pre-tax losses in the six months to April 30 from £5.2 million to £4.7 million.

Bookings for camping holidays, which fall in the second half and which make up two thirds of sales, have risen and the company expects "a marked improvement" in current-year results. It noted,

however, that camping holiday sales have slowed somewhat in recent weeks as high season capacity is used up.

First-half sales of Superbreak and Goldenweek short break holidays rose by 12 per cent.

The company, led by Angus Crichton-Miller, chairman, and Richard Atkinson, chief executive, said it expects further recovery in its camping businesses in 1998.

The seasonal loss was 8.9p a share, down from 10.5p. An unchanged 3.75p interim dividend is due on August 27.

Tempus, page 30

Salvesen target for Aggreko demerger

BY PAUL DURMAN

CHRISTIAN Salvesen intends completing the demerger of its Aggreko power hire business by the end of September, it said yesterday.

Chris Masters, chief executive, insisted that demerger was the right move for the logistics group, despite the sharp fall in Salvesen's share price since its plans were announced last November. The shares have fallen from around 360p to 236½p, although this is partly explained by the 51p a share special dividend payment.

Dr Masters said it was too early to judge the demerger scheme, which was strongly opposed by Sir Gerald Elliot, the company's former chairman, and holders of 30 per cent of the company's shares.

Salvesen reported pre-tax profits of £85.9 million for the year to March 31, up by 10.7 per cent. The professional fees incurred on making the £150 million special dividend payments, and the £1 million cost of defending the tentative takeover approach from Hays last summer, were offset by a £5.8 million profit on disposals. Leaving aside these exceptional items, operating profits were 10.9 per cent higher at £89.5 million on sales of £746.3 million (£700 million).

Aggreko increased profits by a quarter, to £38.4 million. It was helped by the Atlanta Olympic Games, to which it supplied almost 800 pieces of power and cooling equipment. Dr Masters is to become executive chairman of Aggreko after the demerger.

The Salvesen intends paying a final dividend of 5.35p on August 5, to give a total of 9.15p, an increase of 5.8 per cent after adjusting for the share consolidation that accompanied the special dividend payment.

Formula One flotation is stalled on starting grid

BY JASON NISSE

THE £1.5 billion flotation of Formula One, the company which controls Grand Prix motor racing, was yesterday thrown into doubt after Salomon Brothers, which is backing the float, was unable to agree a timetable for issuing a prospectus.

Salomon Brothers had hoped to set a timetable yesterday after a meeting at which many of the complex contractual issues were to be sorted out. This was unsuccessful

and the company, which is owned by Bernie Ecclestone, is now likely to float in the autumn.

No formal announcement has been made by Salomon Brothers, which has irritated the City by stopping the circulation of research material produced by City analysts who fromula One took to the recent Spanish Grand Prix.

Among the issues that need to be resolved are the legality of the television deals struck by

Formula One in Europe, the stake that the team and track owners will have in the company and the stake to be held by Mr Ecclestone and his wife. The group's accounts, which have been circulating widely despite not having been formally published, show that Mr Ecclestone was paid £54 million last year, when the group had turnover of £200 million and profits of £85 million.

Commentary, this page

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Banks buoyant on talk of NatWest-Abbey merger

THE banking sector has again become a bubbling cauldron of bid speculation. Shares of NatWest Bank raced up 35½p to 516p, giving it a price tag of £13.97 billion as speculation mounted that it will soon reach the basis of a friendly merger with Abbey National. That line of thought also boosted Abbey National, which ended the session 24p dearer at 883½p.

In the week since Abbey National was reported to have rejected the approach of NatWest, its price has risen 72p. Brokers say the move to court Abbey National highlights the drastic action needed to be taken by Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman, in order to overcome the problems of intense competition in a shrinking marketplace. If the merger with Abbey National is not concluded, those problems are likely to come to a head, say brokers. The mighty HSBC, up 13p at £19.27½, is also seen as a potential suitor for Abbey National.

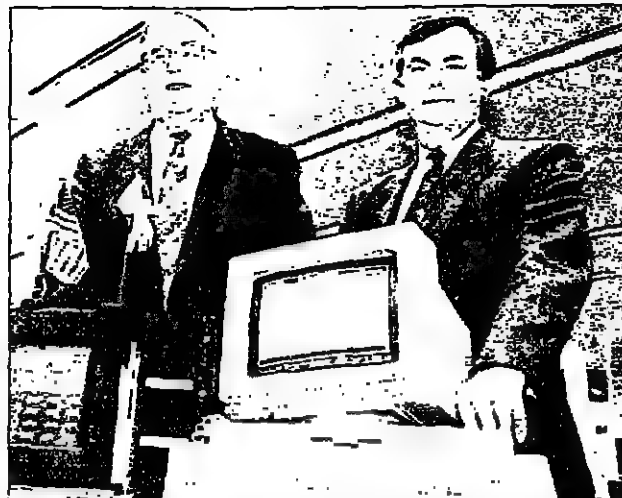
The rest of the banking sector was also chased higher, providing another boost to the equity market generally. Halifax, the newcomer, rose 12½p to 749p, while Royal Bank of Scotland benefited from a "buy" recommendation from Cazenove, the broker, with a rise of 7p to 451p.

Elsewhere, gains were recorded in Barclays, 34½p to £12.11½p. Lloyds TSB, 17½p to 419p, and Standard Chartered, 19½p to 959p.

Share prices generally continued to reflect buoyant conditions on Wall Street. A fresh opening surge by the Dow Jones industrial average last night enabled the FT-SE 100 index to close at its best since a long list of companies going ex-dividend. A total of 750 million shares had changed hands by the close.

Cable and Wireless came in for profit-taking, ending 10½p down at 501½p, in the wake of Friday's proposed sale of a 5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to China and the subsequent 72p leap in the share price.

The disposal of non-core activities at Granada, up 12p at 890p, continues. This time it has sold Brown's hotel in London for £45 million to Raffles, owner of the renowned hotel of the same name in Singapore. Granada



Lord Alexander, left, and Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest, 35½p higher, face a shrinking marketplace

acquired Brown's along with Fort. At the same time it has been confirmed Granada is in bid talks with Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, where it already owns a 27 per cent stake. An offer price of £1.75 has been suggested, valuing the company at £652 million. Yorkshire rose 52½p to £11.60 before the announcement, which came after closing of business. At these levels, the

entire group carries a price tag of £655 million.

Just days after NFC, 4½p better at 138½p, unveiled increased interim losses, Sir Christopher Bland, chairman, has bought a further 500,000 shares at 134p, or £670,000. This takes his total holding to 1.5 million shares, or 0.2 per cent of the company.

A report suggesting that the Chancellor will not scrap

mortgage relief in next month's Budget and that the housing recovery was growing beyond London and the South East brought some cheer to housebuilders. Berkeley Group led the way higher with a rise of 12½p to 729p, followed by Barrat Developments, 3½p to 239½p, and Beazer Group, 6p to 172p.

Shares of Acel tumbled 56p to 116½p on the back of a profits warning as the electronics and industrial controls group reported a turnaround in profits last year. It blamed the strong pound.

Treadwell tumbled 20½p to 132½p after first-half profits fell sharply from £1.3 million to £267,000. The group remains pessimistic about profits for the year as a whole.

A bumper increase in full-year profits at AIM-listed Sira Group was rewarded with a ¼p rise to 31½p. The industrial cleaning group saw pre-tax profits last year 148 per cent to £682,000.

First-time dealings in Royblue Group got off to a flying start. Shares in the information and technology specialist were placed at 170p by ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, and touched a peak of 227 before closing at 210½p, a premium of 46½p. GILT-EDGED: Prices drifted off after a steady start, undermined by a stronger than expected set of producer price numbers. Worries about the future of a single European currency also unnerved investors already anxiously waiting to see what the new Chancellor has got to say for himself in Thursday's Mansion House speech.

A Gallup survey for Merrill Lynch, the broker, indicated that fund managers are again starting to invest heavily in the gilt market as inflation targets start to ease back. Only half of those interviewed expect the economy to grow over the next year.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell ½p to £131½, as a total of 50,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped ½p to £108½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was seven ticks off at £102½.

NEW YORK: Shares rose in early trading and stayed steady until midday, when the Dow Jones industrial average was 63.42 points ahead at 7,494.19. The bond market saw some profit-taking.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7494.19 (+63.42)
S&P Composite 864.19 (+6.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20223.82 (+261.93)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng Closed

Amsterdam:
DAX index 829.33 (+4.68)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries Closed

Frankfurt:
DAX 3067.43 (+27.86)

Paris:
CAC-40 2680.20 (+33.05)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 1123.90 (+7.70)

Brussels:
General 13208.02 (+138.88)

London:
FTSE 100 3028.7 (+19.3)

FTSE 250 4684.1 (+10.9)

FTSE 350 2265.2 (+17.3)

FTSE Europe 100 2368.67 (+12.05)

FTSE All-Share 2222.17 (+15.76)

FTSE Non Financials 2233.61 (+9.53)

FTSE Fixed Interest 126.70 (+3.10)

FTSE Govt Secs 96.44 (+0.05)

Bargains 52946

SEAQ Volume 756,490

US\$ 1.6371 (+0.0028)

German Mark 1.9915 (+0.0028)

Exchange Index 99.0 (-0.8)

Bank of England official rate (4 1/2%) 14.25%

ESCB 14.25%

ESCB 14.25%

RPI 150.3 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

RPI 155.8 Apr (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Alliance & Leicester	607	+ 2½
Aston Villa	800	+ 10
Cable & Wireless	276	+ 13
Canada	991	...
Downing Hill (100)	100	...
Eagles	35	...
Gallagher	277½	+ 3½
Halifax	749	+ 13½
Heart of Midlothian	112½	+ 1
ITG Group	156½	...
Integrated Air Mgt	125	...
Intl Bloch C Shares	99	...
Lady In Leisure	124½	...
Longbridge Intl	117½	...
NMT (50)	48½	...
Newmark Tech	12½	...
Pennine ALM (100)	100	...
Petra Diamonds	79½	+ 11
Petra Diamonds Wts	61	+ 9½
Qualcomm (43)	125	...
RoyalBlue Group	210½	...
SBS Group	120½	...
Soccer Investments	102½	...
Topps Tiles	111½	...
Versatile Group	34	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Pillar Props n/p (200) 17½ + 1

Tadpole Tech n/p (101) 17½ + 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RIBES:	384½ (-19½p)
REXIA:	2750 (+12½p)
Nat West:	8160 (-35½p)
Calm Energy:	511½ (-21p)
Lloyds TSB:	819p (-17½p)
Abbey Nat:	883½ (-24p)
Prudential:	651p (-15½p)
Scof & New:	674½ (-14p)
Stand Chart:	959p (-19½p)
Nea:	723½ (-14p)
FALLS:	
Finalist Gp:	324½ (-14p)
Rank Gp:	433½ (-15p)
Jardine Math:	492½ (-15p)
Church:	469 (-11p)
Bass:	748p (-4p)
De La Rue:	350p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

The politics of presentation

WHO said that appearances don't matter? BAA had the clear edge in public relations terms yesterday over its hapless cousin, Railtrack, which last week was delivered a public spanking for its investment record. Happily for BAA, it has been spending huge sums of cash recently and pointed to capital expenditure of almost £500 million, well exceeding its profits. This may go down well among ministers as timing is everything in politics but the comparison is both unfair to Railtrack and somewhat misleading.

The trouble is that while BAA has been building like crazy, the company will struggle to maintain the capital expenditure levels over the next few years because the project that matters - Heathrow's fifth terminal - is hopelessly delayed. That is good news for short-term profits: as spending slows and

traffic increases, return on capital rises sharply until growth is stifled by capacity constraints. BAA knows this. The company was keen to list myriad projects, some real and some very theoretical, that might help BAA to escape punishment from the windfall tax.

Logically Railtrack's (supposedly) accelerating expenditure deserves more lenient tax treatment than BAA's past investments which should now be generating returns ahead of expectations, with average project costs running 5 per cent below budget. However, a sensible government will not punish either company - Railtrack and BAA have the capital to deliver transport improvements and should be encouraged to do so. However, investors should hold fire until the July Budget before contributing their funds.

Salvesen

THUS far, Christian Salvesen's strategy has destroyed more shareholder value than it has created. Since the logistics group confirmed its plans to demerge the Aggreko generator hire business last November, Salvesen has lost £185 million of its market value, even after adding back the £150 million it has paid in special dividends. Beached at 236½p, the share price is at its lowest level for six years. Nostalgic investors will remember that Hays, 10 months ago, was prepared to pay 400p a share for this business.

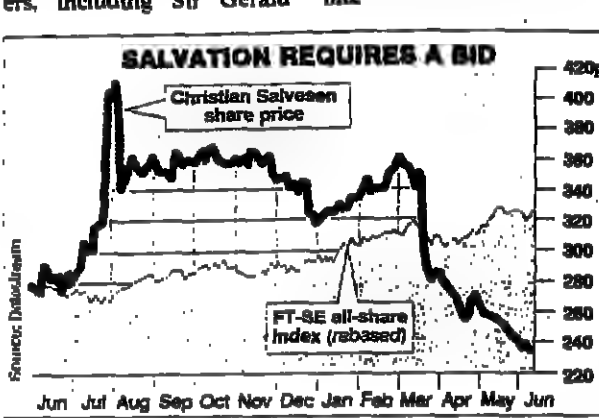
On trading alone, it is difficult to justify the extent of the share price fall. Aggreko continues to expand: it is now the largest profit contributor. Salvesen rather misleadingly chose

to highlight the growth in its industrial logistics business, split out for the first time, but even the overall logistics profit was an acceptable 7 per cent ahead.

Salvesen's recent fall from favour has less to do with the operations than the opposition of many of its still numerous private shareholders, including Sir Gerald

Elliot and other members of the Salvesen family, to the break-up of what they regard to be an old Edinburgh institution.

While it is difficult to get excited about the prospects for the logistics arm, the shares could enjoy a re-rating prior to the demerger if only because of risk of a bid.



Henderson

THE secret of success in fund management is getting your name on the distinguished shortlist of institutions recommended ad nauseam by a small band of influential actuaries. In the 1980s Henderson featured regularly on such lists but a period of underperformance sent its star crashing to the ground. The blue-blooded Henderson haemorrhaged funds both on the retail side with redemptions and with the departure of pension fund clients.

Now, with a number of years of better than average performance under its belt, Henderson is a name that crops up in beauty parades, and it is winning new business. In part, this is because of the well-publicised misfortunes of one or two large fund managers but also because consistently backing three or four houses may ultimately lead to a concentration of power that would not be in

the interests of their clients.

Henderson is gaining clients and the pipeline of potential business opportunities is growing apace. That bodes well as does the expansion of administration which should prove a less volatile revenue base. The shares are not looking cheap at 19 times prospective earnings but this is still an attractive sector and Henderson's recovery has yet to build up steam.

Unigate

UNIGATE has taken its punishment. Over the past year, it was pilloried along with the rest of the troubled dairy sector and has spent some £25 million mopping up the mess left by its milk business.

But the worst is not over for Unigate. The decline in the milk business has slowed almost to a halt. Most importantly, the quality of its earnings are improving as are the shortcomings of dairy are more than offset by the suc-

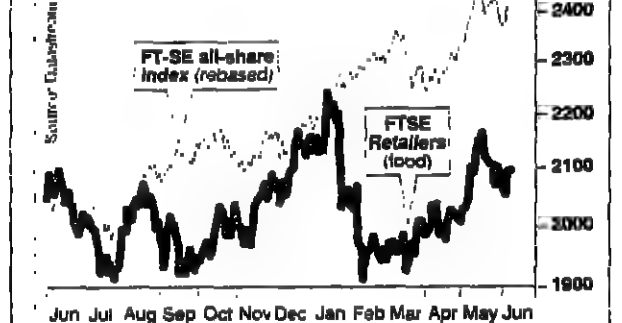
cess of its food businesses. In the meantime, it is sitting on a £188 million cash pile and toying with plans to buy companies. The Unigate is taking too long - Unigate needs a continental acquisition but a look at its share price suggests the market has given up hope.

With net assets of £500 million including £200 million in cash, it could easily finance a £250 million purchase. Unigate is having some success with its spreads and yogurt business abroad, and it would like to add to the portfolio.

Profits are expected to grow by some 10 per cent next year but the shares languish or a forward ratio of 11.5 times, an undesired legacy of the dairy business. At this level Unigate might as well invest in its own stock as buy a new business and if acquisitions prove elusive, it should launch a share buy-back. These are too cheap.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

INFLATED VIEW OF PROSPECTS



THERE was selective support for the food retailers after the publication of a major review of the sector by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker. It is urging clients to remain 'overweight' in the sector.

Other brokers are worried about the impact on profits from the battle for increased market share. Paul Smiddy at Laing has underlined the importance of food price inflation on profits.

'Food price inflation has begun to bottom out and should pick up in the next

12 months. Just as it reflected a gloomy performance by the supermarket stores on the way down, so it should match their out-performance on the way up,' he says.

During the past few years brokers have been talking of deflation. Smiddy regards Safeway, ½p easier at 353p, as 'exceptional value'. Those to benefit from the threat were J Sainsbury 2p to 351p, Asda 4p to 125½p, Morrison Supermarkets 1½p to 153½p, M&W 3½p to 130p and Tesco 1p to 375p.

COMMODITIES

LIFE		ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)	
Jul	Aug	Jul	Aug
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1002-1001	1002-1001	17.00	-0.60
1002-1001	1002-1001	17.00	-0.60

ROBUSTA COFFEE (\$)		SPOT CIF NW EUROPE (prompt delivery)	
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WHITE SUGAR (FOB)		LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)	
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MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		BRENT (6.00pm)	
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LIFE OPTIONS		LONDON METAL EXCHANGE	
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LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)		LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)	
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LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)		LIFE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)	
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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt		German Govt Bond (Bund)	
Jul	Aug	Jul	Aug
1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001
1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001
1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001

Italian Govt Bond (BTP)		Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	
Jul	Aug	Jul	Aug
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1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001	1002-1001

MPUS
of presentation

Nazi gold controversy comes home to roost

German financial institutions must learn from the experience of the Swiss, says Oliver August

The row over Nazi gold has now engulfed Germany's financial institutions. During the past year the Swiss banks were attacked for their connection to the Holocaust, taking funds from Nazis as well as Jewish customers and keeping them.

The evidence that trickled out of newly opened US archives did grave damage to the reputation of Switzerland and its bank secrecy laws. It was only a matter of time until Germany would be drawn into the dispute. That time has now come. The Nazis' close links with big business are no secret. Hitler could never have declared war on Europe without the help of Krupp and the Junker class of Prussian landowners. But new details of how the money men profited from the war still has the power to shock, especially among the sensitive German people.

The case of the Allianz group stands out. In the 1930s it was — and still is — Europe's biggest insurance company. During the war it also helped Hitler do his dirty work, it would now appear. Two allegations have been levelled against it in recent weeks.

First, Allianz acted as an insurance agent to

the SS, which built and supervised the concentration camps. Germany would not be Germany if this century's biggest crime against humanity did not have proper insurance policies with orderly paper work. Barracks, storage buildings and car pools were insured against fire, theft and accidents, according to *Der Spiegel* news magazine. The SS was treated like a normal customer. Volume sales were discounted. Allianz agents went to view the camps on a regular basis to check the fire risk. One agent concluded after visiting Auschwitz in 1942 at the height of the Holocaust: "Due to the continuous military supervision, there is total order and cleanliness."

Secondly, Allianz is facing a US class action suit for ripping off the life insurance policies of Holocaust victims. The company had many Jewish policyholders before the war. But not all

of them were paid out and Allianz is said to have kept at least half of the funds.

The class action suit is similar in nature to that filed against Swiss banks by Holocaust victims and their families. It is being prepared by the same American lawyer, Edward Fagan. But Allianz has, so far, failed to learn any lessons from the Swiss experience.

The Swiss banks recently recovered a certain degree of peace when they stopped playing down their Nazi involvement. Every time they uttered proclamations of innocence, US Jewish groups came up with more evidence. Marshalled by Al D'Amato, New York Senator, they combed the archives. The Swiss eventually conceded and are now negotiating compensation.

Not so in Germany. Herbert Hansmeyer, an Allianz director, responded to the recent allegations by saying that the profits from SS

business were not significant. The company had earned only a few thousand Reichmarks, he said. This is hardly the point, the victims justifiably retort.

Belatedly, the German insurers' trade association forced a different response. Allianz is set to appoint independent arbitrators from consultants Arthur Andersen to sift files and set up telephone hotlines. It will also name a panel of independent economic historians to fully investigate its relationship with the Nazi regime.

Thus the row over the Nazi past of financial institutions has now reached a stage where it can no longer be confined to Switzerland, which is actively pointing the finger at Germany. Documents relating to Allianz were first unearthed by Peter Balzli, a Swiss journalist on the Zurich newspaper *Die Sonntags Zeitung*.

The next protest target is already in sight. Dresdner Bank, the German owner of Kleinwort Benson, yesterday celebrated its 125th anniversary. Did it mention its highly successful business relationship with the Nazis? No need, it said. Those moral debts were written off 50 years ago. The Swiss know better.

How UK firms have become short-sighted

Christine Buckley on the changing culture of strategy

Most companies fail to make strategic plans that extend beyond five years; nearly one third of businesses look even less far into the future, mapping out their corporate direction only two to four years ahead.

These claims are based on research soon to be published by Leeds University. The comprehensive study of corporate planning of more than 100 companies — ranging in size from the biggest FT-SE 100 businesses to medium-sized firms — reveals that long-term strategy and expansion into new areas are low on the agenda.

The study by Richard Falshaw and Keith Glaister of the university's business school appears to confirm a straw poll taken at the last Institute of Directors' annual conference, when more than 86 per cent of those attending said that short-termism in strategy was a problem for UK business.

Although different businesses have varying needs of forward planning, the culture of strategy is changing. No more do companies tend to house a planning department on a lofty floor in their headquarters and fill it with business academics, whose views are sought very occasionally. The big picture has now been devolved from such departments to managers and/or outside consultants whose profits have soared.

Industry blames the short-term perspective of the City, which causes companies to be more conscious of quick gains at the expense of longer-term considerations. Pay is a further inducement to short-termism when it links executive bonuses to near-term targets.

Another catalyst is the drive by companies to cut costs. Shaped by cutbacks in the mid-Eighties, companies are now generally stripped to the bone. A planning department was invariably construed as a luxury that could easily be cured by selective outsourcing.

Brian O'Rourke, executive director of the Management Consultancies Association, says: "Ten years ago the chairman of a large company might have sent up to the planning department for a strategic view once a year. It isn't like that any more."

At the last Confederation of British Industry conference, ICI was berated by John Kay, chairman of London Economics, the research centre, for shifting its priorities since 1988.

Professor Kay compared annual reports of the chemicals giant. In 1988 it had declared its aim to be "the world's leading chemical company, serving customers internationally through the innovative and responsible application of chemistry and the achievement of our aim, we will enhance the wealth and well-being of our shareholders, our employees, our customers and the communities which we serve in".

After Hanson's hostile move on ICI the declaration changed to "our objective is to maximise value for our shareholders by focusing on businesses where we have market leadership, a technological edge and a competitive cost base".

This narrowed perspective squares with answers given to Professor Falshaw's study. Only 23 per cent of companies said they gave great importance to strategic planning to totally new markets. In a separate question more than 76 per cent said their emphasis was centred on closely related markets. More than a third of companies placed little emphasis on contingency plans in their strategic planning.

It is no surprise that the profits of management consultants have risen sharply. While directors deny they have outsourced their company's strategy, they do not deny that much of the research and hypotheses on which strategy is based is acquired from consultants.

Last year the Management Consultancies Association reported a 17 per cent jump in fee income to £1.4 billion. The number of businesses using its services climbed 31 per cent to more than 23,500.

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Brown has his work cut out over rising level of pay settlements

Philip Bassett on the seeds of conflict being sown by rapid growth in earnings

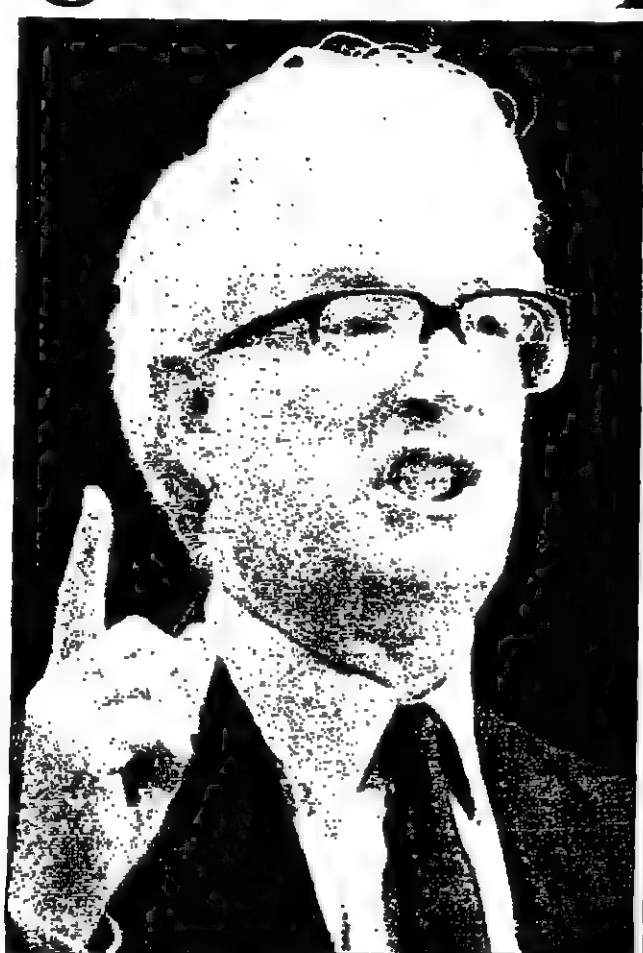
As Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his French counterpart, forged a pact on jobs in Luxembourg yesterday, trade union members in Britain were getting ready to voice their ambitions on pay.

In Brighton today, leaders of Unison, the public services group and Britain's largest trade union, will spell out their hopes for public spending and wages. The challenge that confronts David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, as he addresses Unison's annual conference is that of convincing members that their claims will be given a fair hearing, without him making promises that cannot be fulfilled.

Pay, especially public-sector pay, and the trade unions are seen as one of the potential Achilles' heels of the Government. Sooner or later, goes the theory, the Government will face a dust-up with the unions — with Rodney Bickerstaffe, Unison as the most likely opponent.

But the threat of union strife is far from being the only area of pay difficulty. The Bank of England's new monetary policy committee raised interest rates for the first time last week, ahead of the latest inflation figures due out on Thursday. Much of the Bank's inflationary concerns about rising house prices and about higher consumer spending rest on mounting pay increases. But pay at the top end is causing problems, too, in particular political rows over high pay and bonus awards for the directors of Camelot and Railtrack.

What concerns independent pay commentators in the City and elsewhere is that the rapid recent falls in unemployment are now taking the number out of work down to such a level that unemployment provides no brake on inflation. As a result, pay



Rodney Bickerstaffe, left, of Unison, and David Blunkett could be on collision course over rates of pay



settlements are rising. Unemployment is expected to fall again tomorrow, to a seasonally-adjusted level of around 1.6 million, with earnings continuing to rise at around 4.5 per cent.

Settlements reflect skill shortages — for instance, shortages underpin the builders' unions' confident rejection of a complex three-year pay package offering total rises of up to 32 per cent, and threatening national strike action in the building industry for the first time in a generation.

At the other end of the scale, recent pay deals include 2 per cent for Bostik glue workers and 2.5 per cent for Sayers bakery workers, and 2.8 per cent in the power cable jointing industry. In spite of the large-scale local government deal, recently negotiated by the unions, giving a £4 minimum wage, some local-level council deals are still low: 2.5 per cent, for instance, in Buckinghamshire, Canterbury, Dartford, Swale, Shepway and Kent local councils.

Incomes Data Services, the independent pay analysts, suggest that wage settlements are now becoming less obviously bunched around a 3 to 4 per cent range, and are showing a greater dispersal. Many of the big rises are attributable to the financial sector. Midland Bank, for instance, has just awarded its 8,300 appointed staff and managers merit rises of 5.5 per cent on average. Norwich Union offered its 9,200 staff increases worth 4.5 per cent on the pay bill, and the Northern Rock Building Society a 2.9 per cent rise, plus performance payments of 2.3 per cent, adding 5.2 per cent to its pay bill.

NatWest, for instance, the bank allocated 3 per cent for merit-based consolidated increases for its 50,000 staff, and a further 10 per cent of its salary bill for non-consolidated bonuses. In addition, employees received an end-of-year payout of 16.2 per cent from the company's profit-related pay scheme, an area that may be targeted by the Chancellor in the Budget, and most bank staff got profit share payments of 7.9 per cent

as well. With all the bank's payments based on performance, total rises are estimated to range from 0 to 25 per cent.

Some other industries have struck complex, long-term deals, such as the five-year, inflation-linked agreement that Coca-Cola Schweppes reached with the GMB general union for employees at the firm's canning plant in Milton Keynes, which gives a 4 per cent rise in the first year, and increases linked to the retail prices index for the next four years.

Big increases in finance and elsewhere are contributing to the overall rise in total average earnings, though the complexity of pay deals, including elements like tax relief on profit-related pay, make it hard for official indices to track what is going on.

Actual pay levels may be a better guide. An analysis of real earnings, drawn from the quarterly earnings figures recorded since summer 1993 in the Government's widely-respected Labour Force Survey

of a rolling sample of 60,000 households, suggests pay is rising, and rising particularly rapidly recently. For all full-time employees, earnings in the three years to summer 1996 went up 9.9 per cent. Taking it to the most recently available quarter — autumn last year — the rise was 12.6 per cent. Big drops in unemployment after that are likely to have pushed up earnings still further.

Average earnings for all employees, as measured by the Labour Force Survey, now stand at £31 per week, or £1,700 annually. For men it is £368, or £19,100, and for women, £264, or £13,700. Pay for women is rising faster than pay for men — up by 13.8 per cent over the period, compared with 12.2 per cent for men. Earnings are going up more quickly for manual rather than non-manual workers — 10.4 against 9.3 per cent.

Occupationally, managers are seeing sharp increases, especially recently, with earnings up by 12.7 per cent over the three years. Personal service workers, like hairdressers and security guards, are also

seeing big proportional rises of some 15 per cent, though their average pay levels are rather different: £260, or £13,500, as against £24,000 for managers. Skill shortages are reflected in sectoral differences, especially recently. From summer 1993 to summer 1996, construction pay rose by just 7.3 per cent on average. But compared with autumn, with the housing market improving, the rise was 18.4 per cent, to an average of £341, or £17,700.

Pay in banking and finance jumped by 17.2 per cent, while regionally all areas were trying to catch up with London and the South East. Average pay in greater London is now £407, or £21,200, while areas such as Yorkshire and Wales have seen big increases of around 18 per cent.

In the face of such evidence, it is hardly surprising that champions of low pay, such as local and national leaders at today's Unison conference, are pressing for the Government's proposed statutory national minimum wage to be set at what they see as a decent level — £4.42 an hour, or around £9,200 for a 40-hour week.

Mr Bickerstaffe, Unison's general secretary, said: "Britain desperately needs a minimum wage set at a decent rate."

Arguing that such a deal will benefit both sides of industry, as well as the taxpayer by cutting back on subsidies to low-paying employers through rising in-work benefits, he says: "In a wealthy society it is scandalous that so many in full-time work are living close to the margin of subsistence."

Unison's conference will feature some angry attacks on the Government, condemning the Prime Minister and others for failing to set already a specific figure for a minimum wage.

The conference is likely to see left-wing activists getting in their charges of betrayal early. Mr Blunkett will confirm today the Government's commitment to a national minimum wage. But ministers' clear warnings that the Government will not yield to unreasonable pay demands, at a time when pay deals are continuing to rise steadily as unemployment falls, may well carry with them the seeds of economic and political trouble, as Brighton is likely to show this week.

Lighter view

TO THE Sandown Exhibition Centre in Esher next Wednesday where it will be standing room only for an Investors in People "masterclass" from Howard Hodgson. Described by Surrey Training & Enterprise Council, sponsor of the event, as "one of Britain's most dynamic entrepreneurs", the Tec notes that Hodgson was dismissed last week as chief executive of Rosson, the lighter maker.

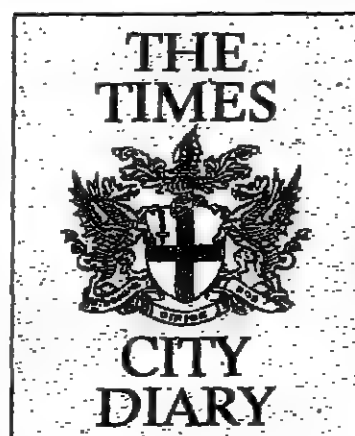
Andy Smith, a spokesman for the Tec, yesterday said: "It should make for a more interesting evening." Given recent coverage of Hodgson's

mixed personal and private life, there should be some interesting questions on what the Tec describes as "the ups and downs of his business career".

● A VARIATION has emerged to Goodhart's law — the maxim dreamed up by Professor Charles Goodhart, the newly appointed member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, which goes along the lines of: "All monetary indicators become unreliable as soon as you rely upon them." A survey by KPMG Management Consultancy says up to 95 per cent of financial spreadsheets-based models contain major errors. The report is called "Supporting the decisionmaker."

Shirty

IT IS a sad state of affairs when Millwall FC — slogan "no one likes us, we don't care" — finds *Topless Darts* too steamy to be carried on its team strip as part of its sponsorship deal with Live TV. Instead the shirt will have to promote to another show: *The Weather in Norwegian*. Still it could be worse. A quick perusal of Live's schedule suggests other programmes that Millwall could promote — *Handy Hunks*, *Game of Two Staves*, *Looking for Love* or perhaps



Tiffani's Big City Tips, which is apparently a financial programme where the presenter strips off.

Junk e-mail

AN EARLY headache for Helen Alexander, *The Economist's* new managing director, A hacker has infiltrated the magazine's e-mail distribution list. Being such a smartypants in the brave new world of electronic publishing, *The Economist* eschewed the Internet for the Intranet — a password protected closed distribution service where subscribers pay a fee to receive the key part of the weekly.

But imagine the surprise of the Intranetters when they logged on to read: "Look what Dr Alford has

found. An opportunity for us to send junk mail to everyone on *The Economist's* mailing list." According to Jonathan Chat, at *The Economist*, the hacker was able to take advantage of a password protection fault. "We've closed this off and it should be back to normal this week," he said. Now there's a challenge for Dr Alford.

● OVERPAID and over here — the invasion of American lawyers continues apace. The amazingly named Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft (which I am told is the oldest law firm on Wall Street, having been formed in 1792 when the street was no more than a muddy slurry) is beefing up its London operations with four new signings. It is taking Andrew Wilkinson from Clifford Chance — who is the one to chat to at parties, being an expert in non-contentious insolvency and insurance law — as well as James Starkey from Freshfields and John Walker and Russell Jacobs, both of Wilde Sapte.

Clean cuts

I AM glad to report that *Against the Odds*, the autobiography of James Dyson, the bagless vacuum cleaner magnate, is to be published at last. In Michigan in May, Anway, the US door-to-door sales group, sought to prevent publication until the millionaire inventor removed mentions of the battle between the corporation and Dyson over patent infringement.

To satisfy Anway, the cuts have been made, and the book will appear at the end of the month.

Rock steady

ANDREW FISHER, a KPMG partner, has agreed to a thankless task. He has been appointed by Peter Montefrigo, the Gibraltar Trade and Industry Minister, as the rock's first Finance Centre Development Director. He is charged with banishing memories of Gibraltar's unsavoury reputation and making it a leading European finance centre. Fisher is ably qualified. His CV boasts that he was part of the team that drafted the new Maltese tax legislation.



Dyson: hopes book will clean up

LOSING SLEEP?

foreclosure n. 1 shut down golf course (after errant ball on head) 2 one better than a fiveclosure 3 take possession of a property because an owner cannot repay money.

liquidate v. 1 a blind date, usually with a member of the Campaign For Real Ale 2 wind up the affairs (of a company) by ascertaining liabilities and apportioning assets.

tax n. 1 item commonly used for securing carpet to floor 2 round disk as dispensed to motorists (ref. *Swansea*) 3 fiscal obligation to State executed under very complex laws.

SUMMONS n. 1 belonging to somebody (*summons hat*; *summons car*; has *summon* lost this?) 2 a call to appear before a judge or magistrate.

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BRIEFINGS

The Patent Office has launched its own Website to provide information on intellectual property and on its publications and services. <http://www.patent.gov.uk>

□ Lloyds Bank has published a range of free fact sheets containing tips on improving export competitiveness. Topics include credit insurance, freight management and value-added tax. Contact Lloyds Commercial Service on 017 923 3881.

□ Parcellance has launched this year's small business awards open to VAT-registered companies with up to 25 staff. The winner receives an executive business development training programme worth £5,000 at Cranfield School of Management. Application forms from (0800) 919999.

□ A booklet to help small and medium-sized business owners and employees to project a professional image on the phone has been produced by Mercury Communications. Mercury, which believes thousands of pounds' worth of business is lost annually by the way the telephone is answered, includes tips on creating the right first impression, cold-calling with confidence and dealing with irate complainants. Free copies of *Telephone Techniques - Handy Hints for Business Users* may be obtained on 0171-558 4334.

□ A mentoring programme for micro businesses in Essex, backed by workshops, seminars and specialist business advisers, is offered by Chelmsford Enterprise Agency. The programme, for firms with the vision, capacity and will to grow, is individually tailored to each business. For further information call 01245 393023.

□ Design and Innovation of 2000 world-class British products and services will be stimulated by the Millennium Product Awards scheme. The Design Council, which developed and is running the project, sees it as an opportunity for smaller businesses to achieve product recognition. The best will form part of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich, and will then be showcased internationally.

□ Only three in ten start-ups research their market and potential customers, according to a report from Barclays Bank and the Chartered Institute of Marketing. This, says the research, increases the likelihood of one of the common causes of failure - loss of market and sales.

Playing your cards right is just a question of size

Jennai Cox meets
a one-man dealer
with very big ideas

In the land where everything is larger than life, giant occasion cards are as common as candy. But since replicating the idea over here, Milton Goodman has discovered that the British are as keen as Americans on wishing their loved ones a happy birthday or good luck in a big, unashamed way.

Yard cards, as they are known across the Atlantic, are oversized occasion cards bearing a message from the well-wisher, which can be hired, delivered and stood outside the receiver's house. Having considered a number of business ideas Mr Goodman, 34, was unsure whether the idea could work in southeast England. Friends, one of whom is now his partner, and an enthusiastic bank manager convinced him to give it a try. "I know you hear terrible stories about bank managers and I was prepared for a battle with mine," Mr Goodman says. "But he took one look at the idea and the figures and said he could see it would be a success."

The Really Big Card Company was offered immediate overdraft facilities and half of the £1,600 needed to get started.

For £40, customers can now choose from cartoon designs including a Chippendale, a clown and a champagne bottle. They then add up to 25 words of their own message or poem (mothers are the best at writing witty, rhyming



Yards ahead: Milton Goodman is making a success out of an idea copied from the Americans

verse, according to Mr Goodman), which is attached to the board and planted in the garden along with a flock of pink flamingos, an hour before the recipient wakes up.

Mr Goodman was not worried that he had not run his own business before. He had acquired most of the experience he needed since leaving college in Belvedere, Kent, where he studied English and electrical engineering in the late 1970s. He worked in advertising for Sutcliffe & Sutcliffe during Margaret Thatcher's first election campaign, sold property as an estate agent and learnt about investment as a

financial consultant. His communications skills have been honed as an auxiliary nurse and acting for three local theatres. He also worked as an outdoor recreation assistant taking people on woodland tours and drove a tractor for Bromley council before deciding to go into the extra-large card game.

Like most small, first-time business proprietors, Mr Goodman has experienced a few teething problems since starting up just before Valentine's Day this year. Ten thousand promotional leaflets were distributed three weeks later than ordered and in the wrong areas.

and he received an invoice from a newspaper for an advertisement he had never requested.

Until he has built up enough capital to rent an office and hire staff, Mr Goodman is building, designing and delivering the boards himself. Business has come mainly from his locality in southeast London and Kent. Clients have included lawyers and shipyard workers and he has covered all kinds of occasion. Mr Goodman is hoping for a busy Father's Day on Sunday.

□ The Really Big Card Company: 0181-300 3653

McNamara is the leader of the Livewire band

By Sally Watts

ALTHOUGH many young men and women have the ability to start a business, too few consider doing so, says Sandy Ogilvie, director of Shell UK's Livewire, which helps people aged 16 to 25 to start and develop a business.

He told the annual young entrepreneurs' award ceremony in London that 65 per cent of those who start through Livewire are

still trading after three years. When they begin, he added, 30 per cent are unemployed, 26 per cent are in further education, and 38 per cent are in employment.

One is Ronan McNamara, 24, who won the top award, Livewire Young Entrepreneur of 1997, for the tour company he started last year in Londonderry. This is bringing business into the whole region. He will use his £10,000 prize to boost his staff from four to

five. McNamara Tours began because its owner saw a gap in the market. Mr McNamara considered there were too few tours into Northern Ireland, so he encouraged tour operators, through which he works, to "look at new destinations".

He added: "I felt there was an air of scepticism about Northern Ireland and I tried to put it in a different light. Londonderry is a totally untapped market and I thought that, with a little push and persuasion, we could bring people in."

He has succeeded: 2,000 visitors have booked from Australia, Canada and the US, and others from Europe and other parts of the UK. He organises anything from meals and walking tours to a week or weekend package. First-year turnover is £120,000.

After graduating in business at Ulster University, he worked in the local authority's holiday and

tourism department, which gave him contacts and knowledge.

He says a small business agency grant and a loan and equipment from the Prince's Youth Business Trust also helped him.

Two highly commended new businesses, Fleur Sexton's Progressive Educational Tools, of Kenilworth, and Joseph Kohn Millinery, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, each won £2,000. Free start-up advice: 0345 573252



McNamara: £10,000 prize

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► Comm Prop/L&T - 2 Positions

South East
We currently have two instructions from well known companies looking for property lawyers, one a Landlord & Tenant specialist and the other with more general commercial property experience. Both roles require lawyers, 1 to 4 years qualified. An experienced legal executive would be considered.
Ref:2988/2972RN

► Sales & Trading Counsel

London
This well known US investment bank is looking to recruit a lawyer with between 3 and 7 years experience in derivatives and other financial instruments. You must have been with a top law firm or a major bank.
Ref:1217NT

► European M&A

London
This prestigious organisation requires a high calibre solicitor with between 3 and 8 years corporate finance, mergers, acquisitions and restructuring experience to join a small team handling a European role.
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Due to continued growth of the

business, an opportunity has now arisen for an additional lawyer to join the in-house legal department. Reporting to the Head of Legal, you will have 2-4 years broad-based company/commercial experience with exposure to EU and intellectual property matters. In-depth knowledge of drafting and negotiating international contracts would be an advantage. Candidates with experience gained in an in-house environment or first class lawyers from private practice will be considered. Enthusiastic and conscientious, you will be flexible and able to apply sound legal knowledge and a commercial approach to a diverse range of issues relating particularly to export markets, commercial contracts and intellectual property.

If you are interested in the Dyson proposition, please contact our advising consultant, Jacqueline Wood on 0121 643 1895 or write to her at In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Fax: 0121 633 0862. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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Renowned for the quality and effectiveness of its litigation practice in specialist fields such as the employment and media sectors, our Client is enjoying an increasing throughput of heavyweight pure commercial litigation instructions. Its dramatic rate of growth has created a "gap" for an ambitious commercial litigation specialist who combines supreme effectiveness as a litigator with excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to lead a team. (Ref:5959)

EMPLOYMENT REPAIRS - EXCEPTIONAL TO £60,000

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BANKING TO £60,000

This City City firm needs to recruit lawyers with up to 6 years' experience of finance to join its in-house team. A number of our clients are now recruiting lawyers to join its in-house team. A proactive, enthusiastic, energetic lawyer is essential and long term prospects are excellent. (Ref:7410)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TO £44,000

After a long period of comparative quiet on the commercial litigation front, we are beginning to see an increasing level of instructions from a variety of City and West End practices. Our offer is good variety, including commercial litigation, advisory opportunities and in most cases a high level of technical support. Many roles provide a chance to broaden experience into specialist areas such as media, technology and banking litigation. (Ref:6442)

IT TO £50,000

Leading multinational IT company with European headquarters in Central London has an exciting opportunity for a lawyer to join their established and high profile legal department, to specialise in IT with an international emphasis. The company would prefer previous specialist experience but will consider exceptional calibre lawyers. Ideal level 3-4 years' qualified. (Ref:6159)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TO £70,000

Precious medium sized City firm needs lawyers with 2-4 years' experience, though candidates with greater experience will also be considered provided partnership prospects are not of paramount importance. You will enjoy role of high grade work for household insurance, law and media clients. Ideal candidate will be ambitious, proactive and able to take on significant responsibility. (Ref:5495)

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS £40,000-80,000

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES £80,000+

This is a major international bank with an extremely high profile in London. All of its lawyers work in a multi-disciplinary transaction management group working closely with the front office in a mixed international role. The team is expanding and therefore needs a lawyer with 4 to 6 years' experience of international banking or corporate finance. The role will be a mixture of securities, structured finance and banking. It will be an extremely varied role. (Ref:6307)

COMMERCIAL ROLE - RETAIL £40,000 + BONUS

A new role has been created at this European retail company within its headquarters in South London. The work will include general commercial, EC, PWT joint ventures and other areas of interest. They seek a 3-5 qualified solicitor, preferably from one of the larger legal practices in London or the provinces. An awareness of property law would be desirable. (Ref:9132)

For Private Practice vacancies please contact Andrew Capfield or Yasmin Phillips (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01462 828110 evenings/weekends). For in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hilder on 0171-523 3838 (0171-442 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Son Street, London EC2M 2PQ. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk.

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Interview Guide

We have just published a short guide to interview technique and to drafting effective CVs. It is available free of charge to our clients. Some of the advice on drafting CVs may be common-sense, but it is crucial. For example: any instances of work you have handled should, if possible, be interesting. "This will set you apart from the rest of the candidates who have the same basic experience but express it blandly." Then comes the caveat: "Don't forget, you will have to justify what you have written."

Interview technique is covered in four sections: presentation, preparation, the interview itself, and after the interview. Key recommendations on preparation are: (a) to think about the work examples you've listed to find you will be able to talk knowledgeably about them ("It is often the only way your technical ability will be assessed"); and (b) to write down your strengths before the interview (with examples) so as to concentrate your mind and give yourself confidence ("but do not try to learn the answers off by heart"). The essential elements of any interview are listed as being: reasons for leaving/joining your prospective employer; your strengths and weaknesses; and your ambitions; and the benefits you can bring to the job. "The 'weakness' question is always tricky. Be truthful, but try to stress the positive. Don't give examples of 'measurable' weaknesses, such as drafting or attention to detail."

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY
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INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

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Corporate tax solicitor sought by insurance co to provide dedicated support to the corporate accounts team and design tailor made packages for clients. Large amount of liaison between the marketing team & management.

Energy: London

Excellent opportunity for solicitor with general corporate experience in a major City firm to join legal dept of leading international energy company. No prior experience of the energy sector required. Excellent prospects.

Litigation: Home Counties

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PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

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Company/Commercial: US Firm

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Commercial Litigation: WC1

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Sole Lawyer: South London

Commercial lawyer min 3 years' ppe required to join construction company. Work includes contracts, JV's, employment & IP. Engineering background an advantage.

Leasing: London

Major international finance company seeks solicitor with min 5-6 years' ppe of equipment leasing to undertake wide range of leasing work and handle M&As. Languages and/or qualification in another European country would be useful.

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This is an important position in an integral part of the organisation and requires a senior lawyer with a strong Corporate Finance background. Knowledge of UK company law is essential and any involvement with project, general, asset or structured finance would be of interest.

EC/REGULATORY LAWYER - 2-3 PQE

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You are likely to have at least 10 years' post-qualification experience, preferably gained within the Legal Department of a consumer bank or finance company, and have comprehensive experience and understanding of the areas specified above. In addition, you should be able to demonstrate good skills in communication and negotiation, as well as commercial acumen.

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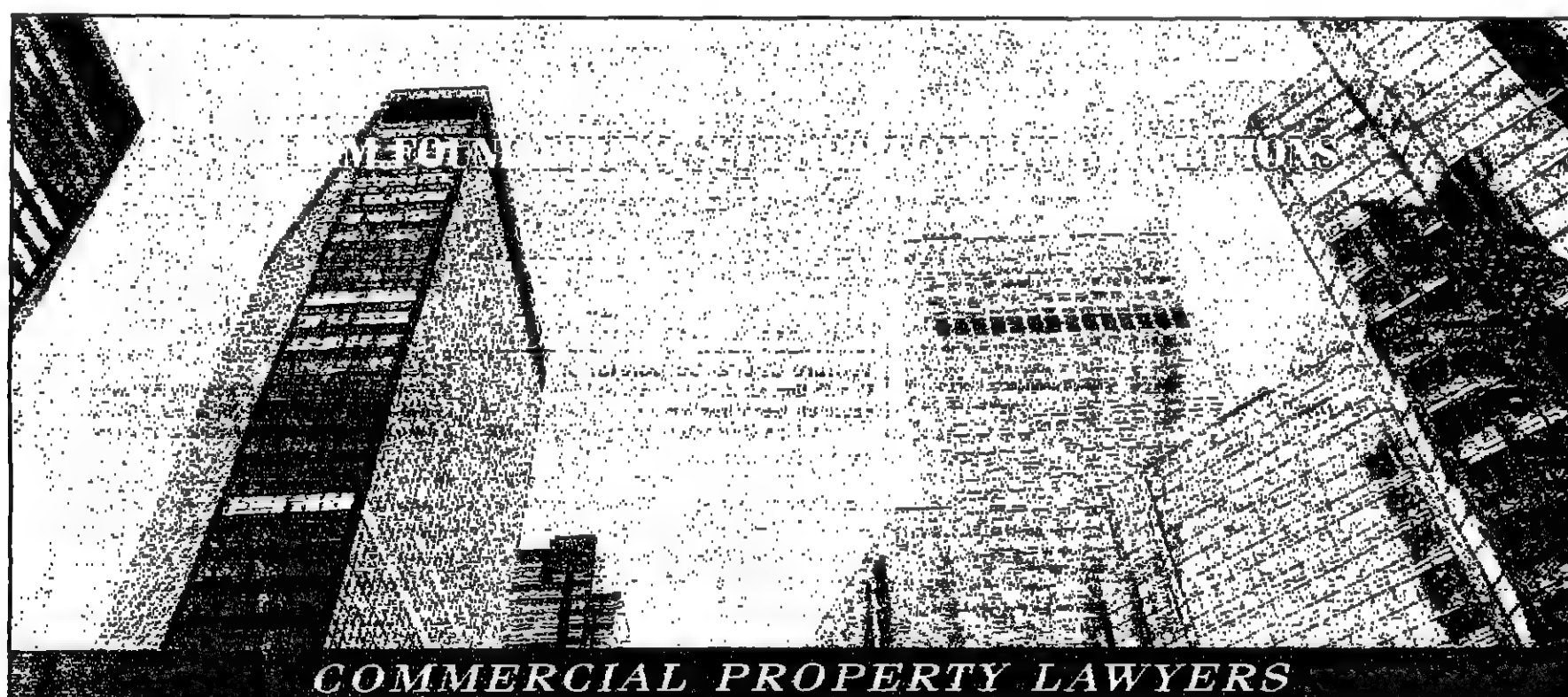
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For further information or to submit an application, please contact Jane Glaseberg, in complete confidence on 0171 242 0303 (0171 722 8849 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Hughes-Castell, 87 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1BD. Confidential Fax 0171 242 7111.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Hughes-Castell and any third party or direct applications will be forwarded to them.



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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Susan Hall at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Tel: 0171 430 1711. Fax: 0171 831 4186. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young.



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Candidates will have one to four years broadly based experience in financial services, corporate and/or banking law, ideally gained with a major City firm or in-house with a financial institution. Experience in retail or institutional investment funds will be an advantage. Given the varied workload, a flexible, positive and practical approach is essential.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Bridget Burdon at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Tel: 0171 430 1711. Fax: 0171 831 4186. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young.



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LAW

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DIY cases can fall apart

Gary Slapper reports on the people who represent themselves in court, sometimes successfully. But in most cases... well, let's say erecting shelves is a lot easier

Near week judgment will be given in the longest trial in English legal history — something of an irony as the case involved a fast-food chain and campaigners demanding instant reforms. Mr Justice Bell will decide in the so-called McLibel trial which, when submissions were completed last December, had run for a record 313 days. Helen Steel and David Morris were sued by McDonald's after they published a leaflet — alleged to be defamatory — about the company. The campaigners conducted their own case in the High Court and became Britain's most celebrated DIY lawyers — "litigants in person" (LIPs) as they are technically known.

Whether or not the defendants Morris and Steel win, their determination in court has encouraged others to take part, unrepresented, in the esoteric courtroom dramas of Britain — but this is a hazardous course.

Legal reasoning has always been an enigmatic art. It has, from time to time, bewildered even some judges, as Chief Justice Fortescue acknowledged in a case in 1488 when he admitted "We have several set forms which are held as law, and so held and used for good reason, though we cannot at present remember that reason".

Those, therefore, who enter the legal arena to do battle without legal representation often struggle. The acclaimed victories won earlier this year by 63-year-old Colin Seymour and 28-year-old Frank Cunningham were not representative of most of these cases.

Mr Seymour, a campaigner who has had success in 81 civil cases he has personally prepared and presented, was aiming to save 56 yards of hawthorn hedge near his home in Flamborough, Humberside. The parish council wanted to tear it down and develop a bowling green, but Mr Seymour discovered that under an Enclosure Act of 1765, the council was bound to maintain the hedge and in January he persuaded Hull County Court to grant him application for a declaration that the council was bound by the legislation.

Mr Cunningham, after a motorcycle

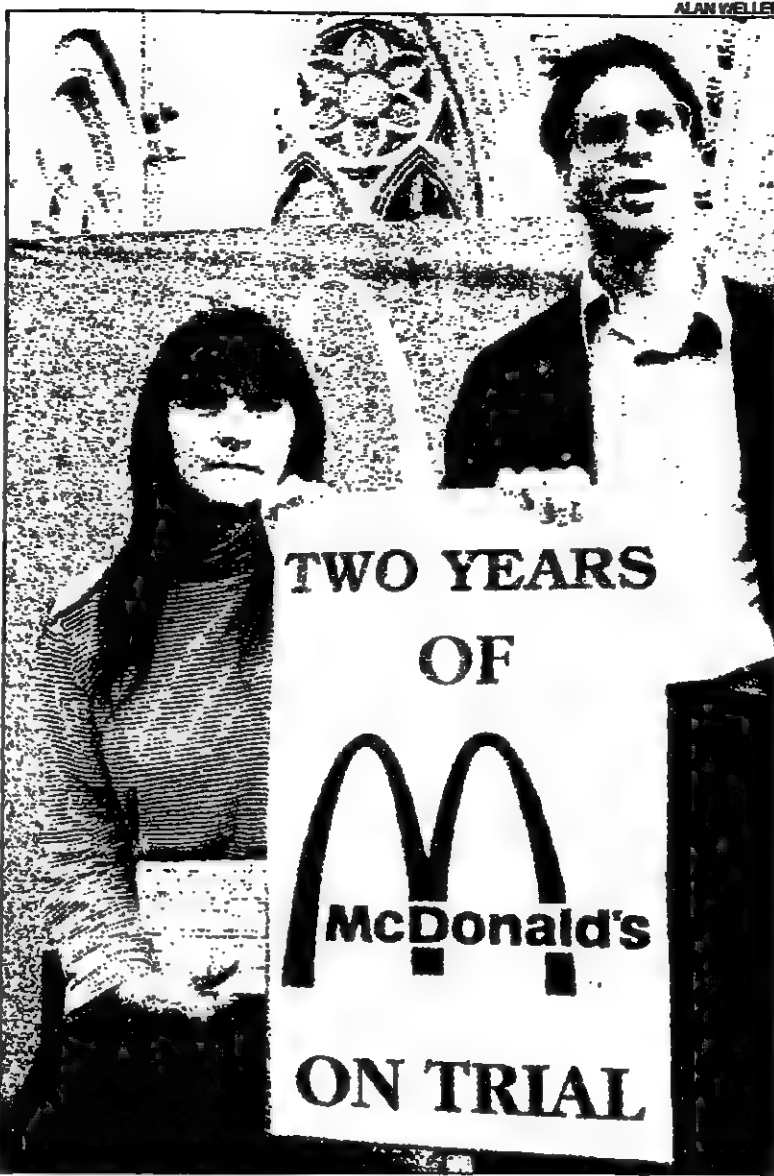
accident in Manchester in 1985, had his leg in plaster but it became numb. A serious arterial problem was not diagnosed and his leg had to be amputated at the knee. He sued the health authority for negligence. Last month, after more than ten years of procedural delay, arteriograms lost by the health authority, two firms of lawyers and a lost trial, Mr Cunningham won £235,000 in damages after representing himself in the Court of Appeal.

Such successes are exceptional. Only a minute proportion of LIPs win their cases, and most find taking on the legal process alone a thoroughly frustrating and confounding business. In applications by LIPs to be granted leave to appeal, about 90 per cent fail. Of just under 600 LIPs who brought their cases to the Court of Appeal in 1994-95 only 4 per cent were successful.

Because many LIPs do not understand the technicalities of the law they are arguing, or the relevant procedures, their cases are often inordinately protracted. The McDonald's trial, which ran for more than two and a half years and in which the closing speeches alone lasted eight weeks, may have given the defendant campaigners a good opportunity to vent their views on all the relevant issues, but for most LIPs involved in family and bankruptcy matters, lengthy proceedings are an added pain.

The problem is getting worse. A study for the Judges' Council in 1995 found that the number of LIP applications to the Court of Appeal rose from one in ten cases in 1989-90 to one in three in 1992-94. The raising of the small claims court limit from £500 in 1989 to £3,000 today is putting more claimants into an arena where legal costs are not recoverable, and where, accordingly, they are less likely to engage a lawyer but where company defendants are always represented.

Legal representation is generally recognised to afford litigants an advantage over an unrepresented side. In one study of industrial tribunals, for example, it was found that if the applicant was represented and the respondent was not, the applicant's probability of success was 48 per cent, whereas



Helen Steel and David Morris: do-it-yourself lawyers in the record book

if the applicant was not represented and the respondent was, their probability of success fell sharply to 10 per cent. In his final report, last year, on civil justice, Lord Woolf recommended raising the county court small claims limit to £5,000, a suggestion since approved by Lord Mackay of Clashfern while Lord Chancellor. Clearly, such a change would worsen the problem of unrepresented claimants.

The rapid decline in legal aid eligibility since 1990 has also swelled the numbers of LIPs entering the courts.

The Citizens Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice recently benefited from a £65,000 grant to fund an experimental extension of the advice

service to LIPs. In his report Lord Woolf made 14 recommendations specifically to facilitate the mission of the LIP. He suggests, for example, that unrepresented clients should have access to court libraries, and that judges should be trained in taking an interventionist approach in cases with an unrepresented party.

This strategy seems to recognise the growing role of LIPs in the legal system but it is questionable whether such an approach — however attractively low-cost to the State — will significantly improve the experience of either the litigants or the court personnel whom they face.

Dr Gary Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

The real test of our human rights

The Government plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law, a proposal which Liberty has supported for more than 20 years. This will mean that our fundamental civil and political rights exist no longer merely in the silence of the law but will have a key place in a new constitution. For the first time we will have positive rights to privacy and fair trial, freedoms of expression, religion and assembly.

The Convention is not a panacea and being nearly 50 years old needs to be supplemented by new rights in a domestic Bill of Rights. But in the shorter term, the Government needs to make important decisions on how incorporation is to be achieved.

The real test of the new Parliament's commitment will be whether it is prepared to allow the courts to give a higher status to the Convention than other legislation. The Canadians have managed to develop devices that preserve the sovereignty of their Parliament while also giving fundamental rights the importance they deserve within the constitution. If in a particular case the courts have to resolve a conflict between the rights set out in their Charter and other legislation, the Charter rights are given precedence. The particular statute is not, however, "struck down": instead the courts either "read in" the missing rights or alternatively make it clear that in the particular circumstances part of the statute no longer applies. Parliament then has the opportunity either to clean up the statute to comply with the ruling or to enact it and add a clause to state that the provision applies "notwithstanding" the Charter. This latter option prevents the court from displacing that provision of the statute.

The alternative model under discussion comes from New Zealand. This has been given some impetus recently by the Court of Appeal, but it remains an inadequate model. In New Zealand where there is a conflict between rights and statute, statute prevails. To adopt the New Zealand model here would mean that the individual who could show to the satisfaction of the domestic court that his or her Convention rights had been violated would nevertheless lose the case. The "loser" would then still have to petition the Commission in Strasbourg for redress.

The Labour Party's consultation paper, published in December, proposed that Parliament would be expected to change the law in any case where the domestic courts found that the primary legislation did not comply with the Convention. Unfortunately if it did not do so the domestic courts would be powerless to do anything, other than to re-

mind Parliament every time a similar case came along. The danger with this approach is that if a case concerned an unpopular group of people, such as suspected terrorists, or protesters, or was controversial in some other way, as many human rights cases are, Parliament might never get round to changing the law. The law would then be in a mess with the courts finding violations and Parliament taking no action to remedy the situation.

This problem can be illustrated by an example. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 changed the law on bail. Defendants who have been convicted of very serious offences in the past and who are later charged with a similar offence are not entitled to bail whatever their circumstances. It can be argued that this absolute ban violates the rights contained in Article 5 of the Convention (the right to liberty) and there are already two cases on this point pending with the European Commission. If the New Zealand model were adopted, our courts would be able to find that there was a violation but the litigant could be given no redress. Parliament could change the law but might never find the time. Other cases would be taken to the courts and the courts would give judgment but then would be powerless to deliver a remedy based on this judgment. This would lead to further conflicts between Parliament and the courts.

Most of the cases decided by the European Court against the United Kingdom last year involved problems with primary legislation. Other cases pending include restrictions on

the right to silence and on the right to protest and on New Age travellers from the same 1994 Act. Recent additions to anti-terrorism legislation and the original "bugging proposals" in the Police Act 1996 indicate that legislation that might result in violations of the Convention remains a real possibility even after incorporation.

Now that it is in government, Labour must revisit this issue urgently and adopt the tried and tested Canadian model to resolve the contradictions in the current proposals.

The Government also proposes new duties on Parliament, ministers and the Civil Service to protect rights. Proposed new laws will need to be assessed for compliance with the Convention. In this way, fewer violations of rights based on legislation should end up in the courts. We need not follow slavishly either the Canadian or the New Zealand model. But the courts must have power to provide a real check when Parliament has legislated in a way that puts our fundamental human rights at risk.

● The author is Director of Liberty.



JOHN WADHAM



Seymour: 81 successes

Judge ye not the judges

CROWN COURT recorders and other barristers sitting as judges can breathe a sigh of relief. The public will not be able to complain about them to the Bar's new complaints system. A wrangle between the Bar Council and judges over whether the system should have jurisdiction over judges has come up with a lawyerly compromise.

As it is must do by law, the Bar Council obtained approval months ago from the Lord Chancellor and the four senior judges for its complaints system.

It was never intended for full-time judges to be included, but the problem was what to do about barristers who may be complained about while sitting part-time.

Now it has been decided that they are not covered by the complaints system if exer-

INNS AND OUTS

cising a judicial function. The latest issue of *Bar News* helpfully explains that this "would appear to include making inappropriate remarks from the bench," but not "taking a bribe".

Mears again

MARTIN MEARS, the grassroots solicitor who took the Law Society by storm after successfully beating its candidate for the presidency two years ago, is to stand again.

His announcement last week shows the Law Society can still shoot itself in the foot. Two recent announcements which could not have been better timed for Mears will have convinced him he can win just before the close of nominations, the society unveiled proposals to increase solicitors' indemnity fund contributions by up to 80 per cent.

The week before it published the damning results of a

survey which found, among other things, that just 8 per cent of the society thought it was doing a good job. Almost half of respondents did not know that Tony Gilling was the current President.

Mr Mears says: "It has been said that when I won the presidency in 1995, I had 'broken the mould'. It would be more accurate to say that I had thrown a large stone into the water. With my departure last year, the ripples created by the stone ceased and the pool is its stagnant self again."

Philip Sycamore, the current deputy president who is standing for the presidency, says the profession can ill afford to be "inward-looking and divisive". "I believe," he adds, "that the large majority of the profession will bitterly resent yet another contest at the very time we need to be involved in the affairs of a new Government with an overwhelming majority, which

will be challenging the profession on a number of issues."

United still

WHAT could have been an embarrassing public split at last week's Law Society Council over whether to scrap minimum salaries for trainees has been averted.

Leading members of the society proposed a full-scale review of training contracts, including the minimum salary — which will be maintained, pending the review. Hamish Wiskin, who chairs the Trainee Solicitors Group, was delighted. The society had accepted the trainees' concerns about the link between low pay and poor training.

John Kendall, senior partner of the City law firm Allen & Overy, may not be too pleased at the review of his book, *Expert Determination*, which appears in the latest edition of *Arbitration*, the journal of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. The firm appears as Allen & Query.

Training teams

CHAMBERS may soon have to open their doors to teams of inspectors aiming to ensure they are training their pupils properly. The proposal is one of a series of options in a consultation paper on the monitoring of pupillage drawn up by a Bar Council and Inns of Court working party led by Peter Gross, QC.

Under the plan, a monitoring team would visit chambers from time to time to inspect their training documents and interview pupils.

The paper also suggests that pupils whose training reaches the highest standards could be awarded a Kitemark.

SCRIVENOR

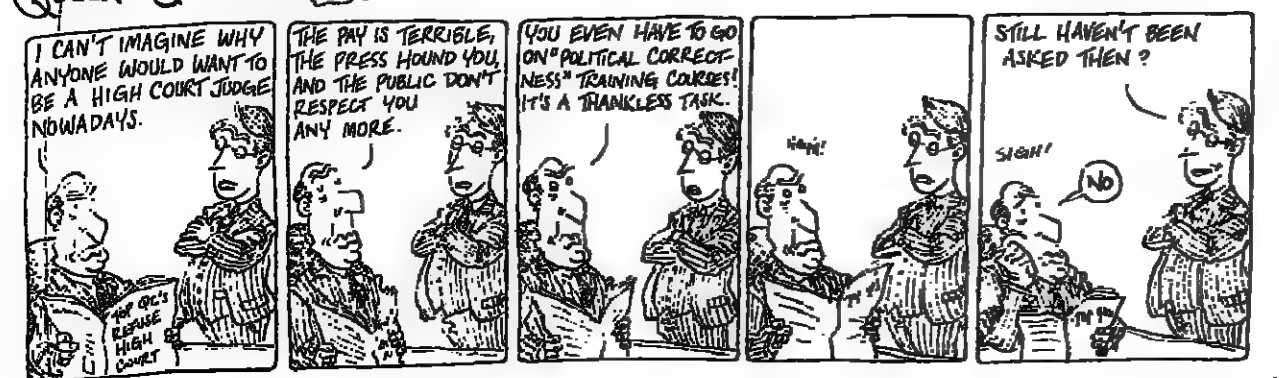
Cashing in on the 2000 crash

HIGH STREET litigators stand to gain from a blizzard of litigation over the "millennium bomb" (computers crashing because they cannot recognise that the year 2000 follows 1999). Alex Megaw, an IT lawyer for Davies Wallis Foyster of Manchester, says that ovens, video recorders and other domestic appliances are still being sold with the fault in their programming. He adds: "It is the supplier who will be at the coalface of claims." In some cases, the supplier will be a finance company that will find itself trying to chase bankrupt companies for the warranties.



Millennium — what millennium problem?

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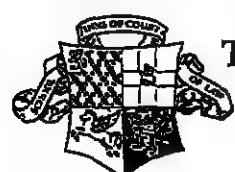
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EXECUTIVE SEAR

Michael Karwowski on how lobbying is paying off for a West Country city

Devolution for some regional lawyers

London has traditionally been the heart of the legal world. But in recent years there have been moves to increase the importance of the regions. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, has indicated for instance that he would be ready to look at the feasibility of judicial review outside the capital. But already a persuasive case for decentralisation is being made in Bristol.

The West Country city has developed an impressive commercial litigation establishment, making it almost self-sufficient of London for the first time. The legal devolution arises largely from the setting-up of a Mercantile Court in January 1994 with its own specialist circuit judge, Judge Jack, QC. The court's work includes contractual disputes, banking, insurance, fraud and professional negligence.

Since the court's inception, the number of writs issued has mushroomed from 142 in the first year of operation to 310 in 1995 and 587 last year. This represents a rise of more than 300 per cent over the past two years. The new court has also heard several nationally important cases that have made legal history in their own way. These include 70 alleged pension mis-selling actions for the financial services industry and cases that have become the leading authorities in their specific areas of the law. And, as if to emphasise Bristol's new-found autonomy, two of Judge Jack's decisions have already been upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The reins of central control were loosened further a year after the setting-up of the Mercantile Court when Mr Justice Chadwick was appointed to be Chancery supervising judge for Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham. His appointment added strength to Bristol's claim to

be a leading commercial and legal centre because the nature of his work includes insolvency, shareholder disputes and intellectual property.

The most immediate beneficiaries of the increasing importance of Bristol as a commercial law centre have been those firms with a strong presence in the city. They have been able to conduct more of their litigation in the local courts.

Commercial cases now proceed not only very much more quickly but also at a greatly reduced cost. This is a by-product of the greater efficiency of the process and of the fact that the case can be heard on a litigant's doorstep.

Simon Pizze, commercial litigation partner at the Bristol solicitors Veale Wasbrough, says: "Crucial to this efficiency is the fact that a single judge runs the case from beginning to end. This means that he is able to exercise the kind of case management overview that leads to speedy and effective decisions. There is also easy access to the judge's clerks, who demonstrate good knowledge of cases and procedure."

Similarly, Mr Justice Chadwick has also taken on a case management role for a large number of cases in the Chancery Division and is willing to decide cases of general importance, leapfrogging the District Judge, where appropriate.

All this home rule is leading to fewer trips down the M4 for Bristol-based solicitors — and therefore reduced costs to the client. "Even two years ago," Mr Pizze says, "I would still normally issue proceedings in London and litigate in London. Now I often bring proceedings in Bristol. This is hardly surprising, as I have never encountered any difficulty in obtain-



Simon Pizze, a commercial litigator in Bristol: speedy decisions

ing very early hearing dates from Judge Jack: not something I could confidently have said in all my years of litigating in London."

The development of commercial litigation as a growth industry has also given the Bristol Bar a new opportunity. Those who have responded have reaped an impressive portfolio of commercial casework. "There has already been a significant increase in the number of counsel who regularly undertake commercial work in Bristol," Mr Pizze adds. "What is also important is that we are also seeing specialisms being developed by the Bristol Bar in areas such as company law and insolvency."

All of this is in line with the recommendations of the Woolf Report into the efficiency of the legal system. And, indeed, the decentralisation of commercial law

applies to other regional cities, including Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle.

Where Bristol is concerned, however, it is unlikely that any of this would have been achieved had it not been for a two-year lobbying campaign by the regional CBI, the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, and the Bristol Law Society. Both the business and legal community in the city felt that Bristol could never promote itself as a commercial centre capable of attracting major international investment without a commercial court.

But two years is hardly a long time to bring about the requisite legal environment for such enormous and beneficial changes. Certainly, Bristol is a case in point in that small adjustments in the structure of the law can produce their own entrepreneurial harvest.

Be careful, in case you reveal a secret

Shock waves are still reverberating around the City after the legal action by the Co-operative Wholesale Society. The case was a timely reminder of the gravity with which the courts view misuse of confidential information. CVS obtained an injunction against Andrew Regan, and some of his associates and advisers, including Allan Green, the former senior CVS employee. The injunction was granted on the basis of evidence obtained by CVS allegedly showing that Mr Green had passed highly confidential documents to Mr Regan and his associates.

Can an individual use information he or she gets from the employer? When can an employer stop this information being used? And what happens if the individual leaves the job?

It all depends on the type of information. Broadly, the law recognises three categories of information held by a company: trade secrets, confidential information and information within the general skill or knowledge of its employees.

Trade secrets are the most confidential type. There is no definition of a trade secret; courts decide on the individual circumstances of the case. The most important factors are the nature of the information and to what extent the employer treated it as confidential within its organisation. Examples can include special manufacturing processes, chemical formulae, designs, a board's corporate strategy, or highly sensitive financial information.

The CVS case involved highly confidential documents, including the company's 1997 budget, board minutes, and profit and sales figures.

Trade secrets are the easiest information to protect. They can be safeguarded by an express clause in the employee's employment contract. But even when there is no such clause, courts impose an implied duty on employees not to use trade secrets or disclose them to others, during the employment and after it has ended.

More confidential information does not attract the same protection. Again, what constitutes confidential information depends on circumstances but could include: customer and supplier lists, sales figures and analysis, and new product information. Confidential information can be protected during and after employment by an express clause in the employment contract. Even with no such clause, the courts will imply an obligation on the employee not to use or disclose such information



Regan, top, and Green: injunction from CVS



Simon Taylor and Gavin Foggo on company confidentiality

while employed, but (unlike trade secrets) not afterwards. The exception is where the employee has already misused the confidential information during his employment; for example, by copying or removing it.

Information considered to be within an employee's general skill and knowledge also depends on the particular case but might include knowledge of general scientific principles and methods, market information on products, and prices, suppliers and customers generally known within the industry. Such information is not confidential at all. When in the job, the employee has an implied duty, often reinforced expressly in his contract, not to use his skill or knowledge for the benefit of a competitor. But after the job has ended, he can use and disclose information within his ordinary skill or knowledge even if acquired during his work.

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Simon Taylor is a partner and Gavin Foggo is a solicitor, specialising at Fox Williams, a City law firm, in commercial litigation.

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Father is

When driver takes over vehicle

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Father is entitled to contact

In re M (a Minor) (Contact: Supervision)
Before Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment May 20]

A father was not to be denied supervised contact with his young child simply because his lifestyle and general lack of stability prevented him from the foreseeable future from having unsupervised contact. He was not to be condemned as incapable of being able within a reasonable time frame to organise his life so as not to order contact at all.

The Court of Appeal so held granting leave and allowing the appeal by the father of a girl aged two from an order of Mr Justice Recorder Wilby sitting in Bullon County Court in January 1997 dismissing his application for contact.

Miss Samantha Birkin for the father; Mr Alexander Kloss for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the parents, who were not

married, had had a tempestuous relationship that had broken down when the child was two months old. The father had had limited supervised access that had been successful.

Later unsupervised contact was stopped for reasons relating to the care of the child. The father, the judge found, although genuine and committed in his wish to see his daughter, posed a potential risk to her because of his drug/alcohol abuse, occasional lack of control over his temper, his having no permanent home and the circles in which he moved.

The judge concluded that it was not in the child's interest to build up a relationship with her father which could not in the foreseeable future lead to unsupervised contact.

The fundamental flaw in the judge's approach was her failure to apply any consistent period of time to the question she had to address.

The father's application was dismissed strictly to contact at a contact centre. The judge had had

as her immediate concern the issue of unsupervised contact and found against the father.

But unsupervised contact was something that the father suggested might take place only in the future. The judge had no evidence to justify a conclusion that it was impossible to envisage a time when the step from supervised to unsupervised contact could take place without harm to the child.

The judge was not to condemn the father as incapable of ever so organising his life within a suitable time frame so as not to start contact at all. If contact at the contact centre worked with a committed father building on the relationship he had, that could only be to the child's advantage because attachments once made were attachments worth building on.

In *Re O (Contact: Imposition of conditions)* [1995] 2 FLR 124, 129 Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, said that the courts "should not at all readily accept that the child's welfare will be

injured by direct contact... [they] should take a medium-term and long-term view of the child's development and not accord excessive weight to what appear likely to be short-term or transient problems".

That was the error into which the judge fell. She had imposed an indefinite, imprecise and inconsistent time frame to the question she posed and she had failed to address the medium term and long term, both of which pointed inexorably to the benefits that were likely to be gained by this little girl from having effective, meaningful contact with her father, who in many respects had shown himself fitted for that responsibility.

The judge had erred in principle. An order should be substituted that there be contact, as recommended by the court welfare officer, at the contact centre for no less than one hour each week.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS agreed.
Solicitors: Kippax Beaumont Lewis, Bolton; Adam F. Greenhalgh & Co, Bolton.

When co-defendant gives evidence

Regina v Crawford
(Charities)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Maurice Kay and Mr Justice Toulson

[Judgment June 5]
Guidance was given on the problem arising when deciding whether a co-defendant as witness was liable to be cross-examined about previous offences because he had "given evidence against any other person charged with the same offence" as provided by section 1(1)(ii) of the Criminal Evidence Act 1998.

Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, said that the essential question, put at its simplest was: "Did the evidence given by the defendant in the witness box, if accepted, damage in a material respect or undermine the defence of the co-defendant?"

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by Charles Crawford, aged 19, who was convicted on a joint trial with Maureen Anderson at Southwark Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder R. J. Cusy-Hughes and a jury) on a count of robbery of a handbag and contents, from Talsam Jarral in lavatories of a restaurant in Leicester Square, West London. The appellant was sentenced to two years detention in a young offender institution, with concurrent sentences for other offences. The co-defendant, also convicted, did not appeal.

Mr Michael House, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Jason Dunn-Shaw for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant was the first to give evidence and she accepted that she had visited the lavatories, but the effect of her evidence was that she had emerged when her two companions, the witness and Lisa who had later disappeared and had not been traced, went into the lavatories and the appellant was sitting in the body of the restaurant when she heard a cry to the effect that something had been stolen.

That was shortly after the robbery had taken place, if the jury were to accept the evidence of the victim, who said that she had been robbed by all three jointly. The appellant said that shortly after she had heard the cry the witness and Lisa emerged from the lavatories.

The co-defendant was to say in evidence that she had been a mere bystander in the lavatories when the robbery had been carried out by the appellant and Lisa.

On one point there was no issue between the victim, the co-defendant and the appellant, namely that, immediately after the robbery had occurred the co-defendant

followed the victim out of the lavatories.

Counsel for the co-defendant, in the jury's absence, sought leave to cross-examine the appellant about her convictions, one of which was a recent conviction for robbery.

His Lordship referred to authorities in which the meaning of the statutory phrase "evidence against any other person" had been the subject of judicial consideration. In *Mundock v Taylor* [1955] AC 574, 592 in which Lord Donovan had said: "I myself would... simply say that evidence against means evidence which supports the prosecutor's case in a material respect or which undermines the defence of the co-accused."

The point was reconsidered in *R v Bruce (Steven)* [1975] 1 WLR 1252, 1259 where Lord Justice Stevenson, giving the reserved judgment of the court, had said:

"... evidence cannot be said to be given against a person charged with the same offence as the witness who gives it if its effect, if believed, is to result not in his conviction but in his acquittal of that offence. The fact that Bruce's evidence undermined McGuinness's defence by supplying him with another does not make it evidence against him."

"If and only if such evidence undermines a co-accused's defence so as to make his acquittal less likely it is given against him. If that puts a gloss upon a gloss, the addition is needed to preserve the

natural meaning of "proviso (ii)(i)." The most recent detailed consideration of the question was to be found in *R v Varley* [1982] 2 All ER 519, 522-3.

His Lordship said that the evidence of one defendant was evidence against the co-defendant if it supported the prosecution case against the co-defendant in a material respect or undermined the defence of the co-defendant. That seemed to their Lordships to be a matter of common sense.

A clear and simple rule had been propounded in *Mundock* and, although the passage from Bruce involved an element of elaboration, that also seemed to their Lordships to put the matter clearly and accurately.

The essential question, put at its simplest, was whether the evidence given by the defendant in the witness box, if accepted, damaged in a significant way the defence of the co-defendant. The statute then provided that the defendant might be asked and obliged to answer questions relating to his previous convictions.

If on any factual matter there was no issue between the Crown and a co-defendant, the defendant's evidence did not damage the defence of the co-defendant if the defendant's evidence was also to the same effect.

If the defendant's evidence supported the Crown in a respect which was not contentious, that was not a material respect.

If, however, the defendant's case

supported the prosecution evidence on a significant matter in issue between the Crown and the co-defendant and relative to proof of the commission by the co-defendant of the offence charged against him, that was evidence potentially damaging to the defence of the co-defendant and was to be regarded for purposes of the statutory provision as evidence by the defendant against the co-defendant.

Varley concerned only two persons so that it was a case where either A or B committed the offence and their Lordships agreed with the assistant recorder's view that a proposition by that court that "it must have been the other who did" was couched in mandatory terms and would have been more appropriate if "must" were substituted by "may". That proposition went into far and was inappropriate to the present case where more than two persons were concerned.

The assistant recorder was correct in the circumstances to rule as he had ruled. Their Lordships felt bound to remind themselves that the judgment of the court in *Varley*, helpful though it was, was not itself a statutory provision.

The words used in the statute were simple and readily intelligible and there was a danger in over-complicating what their Lordships felt sure was intended to be an easily applicable test.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, London.

Proving foreign arrest warrant authentic

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison and Another, Ex parte Becker

Before Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Brian Smedley
[Judgment May 15]

The authenticity of a warrant of arrest of a foreign state in extradition proceedings in England was governed by section 26 of the Extradition Act 1969, regardless of whether the proceedings were under Part III of or Schedule 1 to that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an application for a writ of habeas corpus in respect of an order of the Bow Street Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate committing the applicant to Brixton Prison to await the secretary of state's warrant for his surrender to the Department of State of the United States of America on charges relating to, inter alia, possession of heroin.

Mr John Hardy for the ap-

plicant; Mr James Lewis for the respondent.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the applicable test for authentication was that in paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 1 to the 1969 Act and article VII(5)(a) of Schedule 1 to the Extradition Treaty 1972 between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, since the case was governed by section 1(3) of the 1969 Act.

That test required at least a certified true copy of an original document, whereas in the present case the relevant warrant was only a certified copy of a copy.

The respondent had contended that the correct test was that set out in section 26 of the 1969 Act, which in his submission did apply to cases governed by section 1(3); and that furthermore article VII(5)(c) of the Treaty permitted authentication in "such manner as may be permitted by the law of the requested party", and so did not exclude the provisions of the 1969

Act relating to authentication in any event.

Section 26 permitted authentication by the oath of a witness or purported signature of an officer of the foreign state of issue. The relevant warrant would be duly authenticated under that test.

His Lordship said that section 26 was a generally expressed provision contained in Part VI of the 1969 Act which dealt with miscellaneous and supplementary matters. Unless recourse was had to section 26 there was nothing in Schedule 1 of the Act to indicate what was meant by the words "duly authenticated" in paragraph 7(1) of that Schedule.

Accordingly, his Lordship agreed with the respondent that section 26 applied to cases governed by section 1(3) of and Schedule 1 to the Act and that the test was not cut down by article VII(5).

Solicitors: Offenbach & Co; Crown Prosecution Service, London.

When driver takes over vehicle

Brown v Anelay

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment May 15]

A driver had taken over a vehicle for the purposes of article 15(2) of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 (OJ 1985 L370 p10) if he was a driver present upon the vehicle and was a driver for the purposes of that journey.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Department of Transport Vehicle Inspectorate from the acquittal by Miss Jacqueline Levene, Horseferry Road Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate on June 17, 1996 of the defendant, Mark Anthony Anelay, of a charge under section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968, as substituted by regulation 2(1) of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1984 No 144) and regulation 3(3) of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986 No 1457), as amended by regulation 2 of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 212).

Mr Anthony Ostrin, solicitor, for the prosecution; Mr Martin Rutherford for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that the defendant had been one of two drivers employed to drive a coach from Southampton to Warsaw. The defendant boarded the coach at the start of the journey but was not due

to drive until the coach reached Dover.

Before the defendant had begun to drive, the coach was inspected and it was found that the defendant had not commenced keeping tachograph records, as required by article 15(2) of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 (OJ December 20, 1985 on recording equipment in road transport).

The defendant had argued that a driver's duties under article 15(2) began, in the words of the article, "starting from the moment they take over the vehicle". It was submitted that the phrase "take over the vehicle" should be interpreted narrowly and that a driver only took over a vehicle when he began to drive it.

His Lordship rejected that submission. Article 15 had to be read as a whole, and plainly contemplated that there could be more than one driver for registration purposes at any one time.

The article used the phrase "take over the vehicle" rather than "take over the driving" and the defendant took over the vehicle for article 15(2) purposes at Southampton.

The regulations were intended to cover not only the person driving at the material time but any other drivers present upon it who were drivers for the purposes of the journey the coach was making.

Mr Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Bruce Weir Ostrin, Uxbridge; Maxon Baggott & Garton, Brigg.

Tachograph sheets must be retained

Birkett and Another v Wing

Before Lord Justice Pill and Mr Justice Auld
[Judgment May 15]

Record sheets which had been used in a tachograph machine were "recording equipment" for the purposes of section 97 of the Transport Act 1968 and a failure to keep such sheets was an offence under that section.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated when (i) dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by John Birkett, trading as Lakeland Coaches, and Philip Roy Hayton against their convictions by Manchester Justices on November 1, 1996, of charges under section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968, as substituted by regulation 2(1) of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1984 No 144) and regulation 3(3) of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986 No 1457), and as amended by regulation 2 of the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (SI 1989 No 212); and (ii) allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Department of Transport Vehicle Inspectorate from the acquittal by Penrith and Alston Justices on May 17, 1996 of Dukes Transport (Craigavon) Ltd of charges under the same provision.

Mr Mark Laprell for Birkett and

Hayton; Mr Patrick Stodd for the appellant; Mr Christopher Hough for Dukes Transport; Mr Malcolm Dutchnan-Smith for the prosecution in the second appeal.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that in both cases a coach driver had been unable to produce tachograph record sheets for the purposes of section 97 when requested to do so by a vehicle inspector.

The central point which arose was whether the obligation imposed by section 97(1)(a)(iii) of the Transport Act 1968 to use recording equipment in accordance with articles 13 to 15 of Council Regulation EEC/3821/85 of December 20, 1985 on recording equipment in road transport (OJ 1985 L370 p10) included an obligation to produce record sheets from the day before.

On behalf of the defendants it had been argued that "recording equipment" included record sheets inside a tachograph machine but not those which had since been removed.

In his Lordship's judgment, the phrase "recording equipment" in use according to articles 13 and 15 referred not just to the tachograph machinery itself, but also to record sheets which had emerged from the machinery.

Mr Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Backhouses, Blackburn; Bannister Preston & Omerod, Sale; Cartmill Shepherd, Carlisle; Jonathan S. Lawton, Manchester.

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with rounds of 65, 68 and 71. However, his only win this year remains the Nissan Open in Los Angeles in March and his swing let him down at crucial times on Sunday.

Yet it is his unreliable putting that most threatens his chances of a seventh major title this week, in an event where Europeans have not fared well. Tony Jacklin was the last European winner in 1970.



"No," Schofield said. "If, because of their quick success, some of our players see a better alternative for them to play the winter tour in the US, I personally think we can support that. We know that 'the Florida swing' is the world tour in March. We never have much hope of seeing Nick Faldo or Sandy Lyle

seven out of the 35 events on our tour then I, personally, have a problem with that. There is a difference between a player such as Faldo — who has played ten Ryder Cup matches, qualified for seven and been picked for three — compared to a fellow shouting that he wants to play but he doesn't want to be a member."

Last year £200,000 was raised and yesterday Herb Lotman, the mastermind behind the event, appealed for more volunteers to come forward to help at the tournament. Five hundred or so people are on the books so far, but a further 500 would not go amiss.

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1

Derby revival attracts positive view

the Derby. They need to build on this success and we are happy to stand by them as they do so."

☐ Coral has made Silver Patriarch 6-1 on to finish in front of Benny The Dip (11-10) in the Irish Derby at the Curragh on June 29. Benny The Dip is 100-1 to repeat his stout-headed margin of Epsom.

FOOTBALL: BACK-DOOR ROUTE TO WORLD CUP OPEN FOR HODDLE'S TEAM

England still best of the rest

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS ENGLAND bask in the afterglow of having been anointed champions of the Tournoi de France and contemplate playing Brazil in Paris this evening, Glenn Hoddle, the coach, can reflect on a satisfying weekend. It has been a long time since the national side's global reputation has touched such heights.

Hoddle can also take heart from the latest series of World Cup qualifying matches around Europe, with England still on course to reach the finals in France next year automatically if they finish as the best runners-up in the nine groups. In the unofficial table of the second-placed countries, they lead Yugoslavia and Austria by two points.

With the table compiled by using results against opponents lying first, third and fourth in each group — as decreed by Fifa, the sport's governing body — much will change before the concluding set of fixtures, on October 11. Since the calculations of ten days ago, after England defeated Poland 2-0 in Katowice, Switzerland, Russia and Ireland have dropped out of the top nine places, to be replaced by Finland, Israel and Macedonia.

Finland have leapfrogged Switzerland and Hungary in group three, courtesy of their 3-0 victory over Azerbaijan in Helsinki. A

three-cornered fight for second position, behind Norway, who drew 1-1 with Hungary in Budapest, is likely to develop, with the victors securing one of the eight play-off places.

From the two-legged play-offs, to be staged on October 29 and November 15, four countries will join the nine group winners, the best runners-up and France in Europe's 15-strong contingent. Seventeen others — including Brazil, the holders, and Morocco, Tunisia and Nigeria, who qualified from the African zone at the weekend — will complete the line-up.

Russia have disappeared from the runners-up table by virtue of their 2-0 win against Israel, the previous group five leaders, in Moscow. Israel are likely to fall further once Bulgaria have played their two games in hand.

In group eight, Ireland have been replaced in second position by Macedonia, who beat Iceland 1-0 in Skopje. They could slip to fourth if Lithuania win in Iceland tomorrow, although they remain nicely placed for a play-off position if they can beat Lithuania twice.

England's main threats for the automatic runners-up qualifying place — assuming that they do not win group two by finishing ahead of Italy — appear to be from Yugoslavia and Austria. Yet the statistics are perhaps misleading,

RUNNERS-UP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England (2)	5	4	0	1	14	8	12
Yugoslavia (6)	5	3	1	1	14	8	10
Austria (4)	5	3	1	1	14	8	10
Belgium (7)	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
Greece (1)	5	2	2	1	6	6	7
Israel (5)	5	2	2	1	6	6	7
Germany (3)	4	1	3	0	3	3	5
Macedonia (8)	3	1	1	0	3	3	5
Finland (3)	3	1	1	0	3	3	5
Poland (2)	3	1	1	0	3	3	5

Records based on results against first, third and fourth-placed teams in respective groups. Figures in brackets indicate qualifying group.

with Yugoslavia's record including an 8-1 success against the Faeroe Islands, who moved up to fourth place in group six with a 2-1 win against Malta in Tofir.

It is inconceivable that the Czech Republic will not eventually overtake the Faeroes in the final group standings, which would substantially reduce Yugoslavia's goal difference and thus dilute their threat to England. Also, of Yugoslavia's remaining matches — against Slovakia and Malta — only the former will count towards the runners-up table.

Austria, who beat Latvia 3-1 in Riga on Sunday, are in a similar position in group four. Only one of their four closing games, against Sweden, is likely to be taken into account when the runners-up conundrum is unravelled. With the Austrians having a comparatively easy run-in, they could even over-

take Scotland, the group leaders. Sweden, who overcame Estonia 3-2 in Tallinn on Sunday, are similarly poised should Scotland stutter. Much will depend on their game in Austria, who beat them 1-0 in October, on September 6.

As usual, little is as it seems in the land of Fifa — only Romania, in group eight, can be reasonably certain of a trip to France. They have a 100 per cent record from six matches.

Group nine is still one of the most closely contested, with Ukraine, Germany and Portugal locked in combat. Portugal beat Albania 2-0 in Porto at the weekend, albeit unconvincingly, while Germany were held 0-0 by Ukraine in Kiev. "We have to respect the good performance of our opponents," Bert Vogts, the Germany coach, conceded.

Vogts's European champions are unbeaten and lie in second place, but have rarely impressed during the qualifying campaign. Although it might have been unthinkable at the start of the series last year, they may yet have to seek a back door into France via the play-offs.

Germany's runners-up record has little merit, either, and the home game against Portugal on September 6 could prove decisive. Few, though, would bet on their absence from the finals. It just couldn't happen, could it?



Liuboslav Penev helped Bulgaria to beat Luxembourg 4-0 on Sunday and stay on course for the finals

EUROPEAN WORLD CUP TABLES

GROUP ONE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Greece	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Croatia	5	2	3	0	10	6	9
Spain	5	1	4	0	4	11	5
Slovenia	5	0	1	4	4	13	1

GROUP TWO	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	5	0	0	11	2	15
England	5	4	0	1	11	2	12
Poland	5	1	1	3	3	8	4
Georgia	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Moldova	5	0	0	5	2	13	0

GROUP THREE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	5	3	2	0	13	6	11
Finland	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Hungary	5	2	1	2	8	6	7
Switzerland	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Azerbaijan	5	1	0	4	2	13	3

GROUP FOUR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Austria	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Sweden	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Latvia	5	2	1	2	4	9	7
Estonia	5	1	1	3	4	11	4
Belarus	5	1	1	3	2	10	4

GROUP FIVE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	5	4	2	0	15	2	14
Israel	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Bulgaria	5	4	0	1	14	5	12
Cyprus	5	1	1	3	5	14	4
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	1	17	0

GROUP SIX	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	5	0	0	21	4	15
Yugoslavia	5	4	0	1	23	9	12
Slovakia	5	4	0	1	14	7	12
France	5	3	1	1	9	24	10
Czech Republic	5	1	1	3	7	12	4
Malta	5	0	0	5	2	31	0

GROUP SEVEN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	5	4	1	0	11	4	13
Belgium	5	3	0	2	16	8	9
Turkey	5	2	1	2	14	12	7
Wales	5	2	1	2	14	12	7
San Marino	5	0	0	5	2	37	0

GROUP EIGHT	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	5	5	0	0	20	0	15
Macedonia	5	4	1	0	19	10	13
Ireland	5	3	1	1	15	10	10
Lithuania	5	3	0	2	6	8	9
Iceland	5	2	2	1	11	8	8
Liechtenstein	5	0	0	5	2	36	0

GROUP NINE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	5	4	1	0	7	6	13
Germany	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Portugal	5	2	2	1	7	2	8
Netherlands	5	2	1	2	5	5	7
Armenia	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Albania	5	0	1	4	3	12	1

□ The group winners and the best runners-up qualify. The other eight runners-up will be drawn in pots and the four winners will also qualify for the finals.

Challenge on course for record entries

By MEL WERS

WITH the peak time for registrations fast approaching, *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge looks likely to exceed the 1996 entry by a handsome margin. Since its inception in 1993, the entry for the Challenge has grown year after year, and 1997 is no exception.

More than 600 firms have already entered, which represents a five per cent increase on the same time last year. "We are encouraged by the level of entries at this point," John Mitchell, the originator of the competition and the event director, said yesterday. "The strength of the competition is now thoroughly well recognised by the corporate sector, and our ambition to grow each season looks to be well on the cards."

Part of the appeal of the Challenge is the level of organisation. It is an amateur competition that is run to the highest professional stan-



dards. This year's regional finals, the number of which have been increased by two to 14, will be staged throughout October, with the national final again being staged in front of Sky Sports cameras at the La Manga Club Resort in November.

Last year saw the closest finish in the history of the tournament, four teams being involved in a sudden-death play-off before the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association prevailed on the first extra hole.

Figures, page 45
Results, page 49

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9/1 2-1 10/1	BRA. ENG. 28/1
18/1 3-0 33/1	DRAW BRA. 9/2
18/1 3-1 28/1	DRAW DRAW 4/1
33/1 3-2 33/1	DRAW ENG. 6/1
11/2 0-0 11/2	ENG. BRA. 25/1
5/1 1-1 5/1	ENG. DRAW 14/1
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WAS FORECAST

CRICKET

England to tinker while Taylor is left to soldier on

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S cricketers celebrated on Sunday night and the nation celebrated with them. The fervour for success against Australia, embodied by the players and willingly taken up by an avid public, is now expressed in a tangible way: one-nil, Lord's, next week, will be a carnival.

The Australians, beaten out of sight in the first Test at Edgbaston, have ten days to come to terms with an erosion of confidence in vital areas of their team. England's only problem is to prevent too much premature triumphalism and to decide whether to tinker with a winning XI.

Michael Atherton sounded tired but proud yesterday and both emotions were fully justified. "It was a wonderful game for us and I have not known an atmosphere like it in this country," he said. "There is a terrific spirit in the team and we all stayed together in Birmingham on Sunday night. I sense that people around the country, who hadn't given us a chance before the Texaco Trophy, are now gathered behind us. It's a good feeling."

The feeling must be protected and there are indications that the counties, previously ambivalent, are responding to the mood. Darren Gough, England's most precious bowling asset, turned in 45 overs at Edgbaston and his fire must not be extinguished. Gough, knees pumping,

and eyes blazing, bowled the best spells of the match, one of them entirely without luck against Mark Taylor. He also took the most critical wickets. The England management has asked that he should rest between now and Lord's. Yorkshire are preparing to do without him for their championship game at the Oval on Thursday.

Not since 1981 has either country come from behind to win an Ashes series and Australia must somehow borrow the spirit of that famous summer and reverse the roles. Doubtless, they will take so much from the fact that England have not beaten them at Lord's since 1934.

This time, it may be different. England are at their most cohesive in many years. Australia at their most vulnerable. While the shadows over Taylor have been driven back, if not entirely dispersed, the first Test marked out a number of other concerns for a touring team that may soon genuinely qualify for the tritely routed term, "in crisis".

Consider the facts. The only completed tour match that they have won was against a geriatric pick-up team representing the Duke of Norfolk. They have suffered six defeats, four of them by England. Jason Gillespie, on whom so many hopes were pinned, is out for an unknown period with hamstring trouble; Paul

Reiffel arrives today to reinforce the attack. Mark Waugh, their premier batsman, made five and one at Edgbaston and spent the time between innings in hospital.

There is more. Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne, their two bowlers of undisputed world class, are below their best. McGrath took two for 149 in Birmingham, generally bowling the wrong length; Warne took one for 137 and seemed bereft of the control which, disregarding his periodic magic, has set him apart from other wrist spinners.

If England had begun a tour in this fashion, the headlines would already be beseeching the selectors to call everyone home and start again. Instead, they were yesterday the subject of what may be an unprecedented mark of esteem. Down the years, players and selectors have been separated by suspicion, prejudice and downright distrust, yet here was Nasser Hussain, the man of the match at Edgbaston, saying of the victory: "It's especially nice for the new selectors."

Whether they realise it or not, this was a sign of great faith in Messrs Graveney, Gooch and Gatting—a sign, more than anything, that the players feel that the right people are in charge of their destinies.

Graveney, the chairman of the streamlined panel, admitted to having worn out several carpets while pacing the Edgbaston ground. Always a restless watcher, reluctant to intrude on the space of the players or to join the cocktail set in the committee room, he watched and fretted good-naturedly throughout.

Come the end of the week, he and his colleagues must decide whether Devon Malcolm is worth another chance, whether it is now time for two spin bowlers and whether Adam Hogg should make his Test debut at Lord's. For a little longer, though, they can join the rest of the country in savouring the moment.



White, of Yorkshire, steers the ball into the leg side on his way to a score of 72

Trainer tames Yorkshire

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

HARROGATE Yorkshire won toss! Gloucestershire beat Yorkshire by five wickets

A THIRD defeat by Gloucestershire in consecutive days, this time in the Cotswold Cup semi-final, furrowed Yorkshire's already furrowed brows. Nick Trainor, with a first-class hundred against the Australians to his name already this summer, scored 113 from 126 balls to guide Gloucestershire to their fourth consecutive final tomorrow.

On an excellent, straw-coloured pitch yielding a harvest

of 613 runs, Trainor survived the loss of Shaun Young and Monte Lynch—more eminent fast scorers—to do some run-plundering of his own. Lynch, in his own sharp-eyed style, made 61 from 66 balls during a crucial partnership of 99 with Trainor.

Yorkshire made 305 for 4 off their 55 overs, yet still have not produced an individual century-maker in the 22-year history of this competition. David Byas, Craig White and Darren Lehmann all passed fifty, yet victory was in the realms of cosy notions. After

the loss of Matthew Hoggard, 20, with a groin strain after delivering 14 balls, Yorkshire were a bowler short. Lehmann, bowling emergency slow left-arm, conceded 80 runs from 11 overs, figures that the kindly Tannoy announcer did not divulge to the crowd.

Hoggard, Pudsey-born, awaits his championship debut, but unlike some budding fast bowlers, runs in without undue reliance on his delivery stride. He left the field, head bowed in frustration, though Richard Kettleborough, another young prospect, earned the acclaim of Lehmann, his batting partner and senior run-maker, who stepped aside to applaud him to the pavilion at the close of the Yorkshire innings.

This match, as one-day cricket should be, was mostly about batting feats, and the partnership of 155 between Byas and White was a record for the second wicket in this competition. Today, Durham, the holders, meet Scotland, new entrants and World Cup qualifiers, in the other semi-final.

SCOREBOARD

YORKSHIRE	
M D Morgan c Davies b Lewis	0
D Byas c Quillie b Alleyne	85
C White b Davis	72
R A Kettleborough not out	47
D S Lehmann not out	61
D S Lehmann not out	61
Extras (lb 5, w 7)	12
Total (4 wickets, 55 overs)	305
1st XI: B. Lewis, M. J. Hoggard, G. M. Hamilton, C. E. W. Silverwood and R. D. Stamp did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-155, 3-167, 4-213	
BOWLING: Lewis 7-0-37-1; Silverwood 11-0-38-1; Hoggard 8-0-48-0; Trainor 9-0-36-0; Davis 11-0-55-1; Alleyne 6-1-33-1; Young 5-0-22-0	
Umpires: D J Constant and J H Harris	

GLOUCESTERSHIRE	
N J Trainor c Silverwood b Silverwood	113
R J Quillie c Silverwood b Silverwood	32
S Young b Silverwood	11
M A Lynch c White b Stamp	61
T H C Hancock c White b White	49
R J Dawson not out	14
1st XI: C J Williams not out	19
Extras (lb 5, w 2, nb 2)	9
Total (5 wickets, 52 overs)	308
1st XI: B. Lewis, M. J. Hoggard, G. M. Hamilton, C. E. W. Silverwood and R. D. Stamp did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-59, 3-158, 4-202, 5-258	
BOWLING: Silverwood 11-0-60-3; Hamilton 8-0-51-0; Hoggard 2-0-10-0; Stamp 11-0-55-1; Lehmann 11-0-33-0; White 7-0-44-1	

Southerners seek comfort of Lord's final

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

WHEN the draw for today's Benson and Hedges Cup semi-finals was made, it was commonly assumed that the pairings would produce an all-southern final at Lord's on July 12. No doubt the sponsors would prefer that. When, in 1992, Northamptonshire beat Leicestershire in the NatWest Trophy, it was the only one-day domestic final for which both counties failed to sell their allocation of tickets.

Surrey and Kent enjoy home advantage and rising reputations, but the former should remember that they are playing the champion county, and the latter that the Cobblers know perfectly well how to reach Lord's the hard way, even though they have difficulty winning when they get there. They have contested four finals this decade, and that victory five years ago was their only success.

The match at Canterbury brings together the teams that lost the final to Lancashire in each of the previous two years. Kent failed in 1995 despite a century of surpassing brilliance by Aravinda de Silva, and Northamptonshire went down last year, which was Rob Bailey's first as captain. One of cricket's really good men, he accepted defeat most graciously, and deserves to hold up a cup some time in his life.

It would be a very good win if Northamptonshire did it. Kent are an improving side, and Canterbury has probably the most one-eyed crowd in the country. By racing towards the more vocal spectators, and waving his bat around like a medieval swordsman, as he did after the quarter-final victory against Warwickshire, Graham Cowdrey was only behaving as his father did all those years ago, and Frank Woolley before him.

Paul Strang, the wrist-spinning all-rounder from Zimbabwe, is expected to play. He broke the little finger of his left hand last month but, short of actually saying: "Wild horses couldn't keep me out of this one," he has declared his intention to help his new teammates return to Lord's.

Kent are balanced in batting and bowling and have started the season impressively, but

Northamptonshire claimed an outstanding win at Headingley in the last round and will take some knocking over. It should be a very close game.

Despite their lofty reputation, Surrey are struggling. So far this season they have supplied five players to the England side and, in their absence, their form in the championship, which they were strongly fancied to win at the start of the season, has been wretched: no wins from five matches, and two heavy defeats.

Gloucestershire and Essex have already ceded them at the Oval, and Somerset would almost certainly have won there in the first week if rain had not intervened. Moreover, when they were drawn, rather

TEAMS

KENT (from): S A Marsh (captain), M J Walker, M V Parnell, T R Ward, A P Wells, D P Fulton, G R Cowdrey, M A Eathorn, N J Long, P A Stamp, M J McCague, D W Head, J B O Thompson, B J Phillips, T N Wain, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (from): R Bailey (captain), M B Love, R R Montgomerie, K M Curran, A L Pemberton, R J Warren, T C Weston, J M Storer, J E Entwistle, J P Taylor, Mohammed Alam, D Follett.

SURREY (from): A J Hollube (captain), A D Brown, A J Stewart, B C Hollube, G P Thorpe, M A Buxton, C J Lewis, J R Ratcliffe, Nacsen Shah, J O K Salisbury, M P Bicknell, J E Benjamin, Sagarin Murtuq, LEICESTERSHIRE (from): J A Wadsworth (captain), V P Wells, D L Moody, N C Johnson, G J Mounsey, Alan Huby, A Hearn, D J Wain, G J Parnell, J M Doran, A D Mulvey, A R K Pearson, M T Brimston, T J Mounsey.

Television: 11am Sky Sports 1, 3pm Sky Sports 3 (live); 6pm BBC2 (highlight).

invitingly, against Yorkshire in this competition last year, albeit at the quarter-final stage, they played poor cricket. One way or another, they have quite a lot of ground to make up.

This year, despite their poor form so far, they expect to be among the important prizes. A batting side that starts with Stewart and Butcher, and goes on through Thorpe and two Hollubees, does not lack enterprise.

Leicestershire go a long way on spirit, and conjured up a fine quarter-final win over Somerset. Today they must set another trap for the unwary, and Surrey will need to be sufficiently well prepared to avoid being dragged into the ditch.

Surrey back Lewis

CHRIS LEWIS, the Surrey and England all-rounder, was yesterday cleared of any wrong-doing during an unsavoury incident at the end of an Axa Life League match at the Oval on Sunday (Simon Wilde writes).

Lewis had just left the field when he was subjected to what Paul Sheldon, Surrey's chief executive, described as "revolting provocation" from a lone spectator responsible for "physical and verbal racial abuse". A brief tussle followed

in which, some reports alleged, Lewis landed two glancing blows. The spectator, who also racially abused security guards, was pulled away and ejected from the ground.

Club officials and Adam Hogg, the Surrey captain, emphasised that there was no suggestion of Lewis having to face a disciplinary inquiry, but he and other players were asked for their accounts of the incident. "I'm behind Chris 100 per cent," Hogg said.

AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW THE TIMES

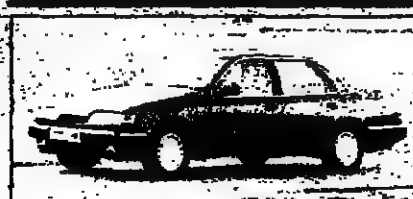
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HOW TO ENTER Collect 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Sunday Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered. Entry forms will be printed in *The Sunday Times* on June 15 and in *The Times* on June 21. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official Ford prize draw entry form. Abridged terms and conditions appeared in *The Times* on June 2. Insert your tokens in the first entry form which was inserted in a Ford leaflet in yesterday's *Times* or attach them to the entry form which will be published in the newspaper next week. Full details of where to send your entries and tokens are printed on the entry forms.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 1985



FORD introduced the new Granada range (above is a 1989 model)

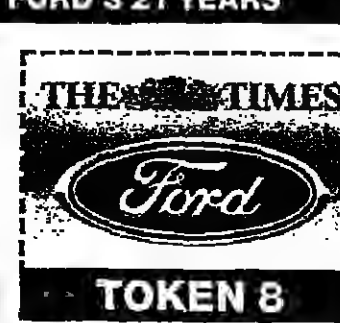
●Live Aid at Wembley

●The first cellular mobile phones are introduced

●Camcorders are launched and a million stars of home videos are born

●Electronic parking meters go into operation in London

FORD'S 21 YEARS



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CHANGING TIMES

Redoubtables get home help

Sarah Potter on an innovative project that should enhance the women's game

Redoubtables are the oldest women's cricket club in the world. Formed in 1921 as part of a Lambeth church sports section, the Surrey club has finally had its most fervent prayer answered and found a permanent home. This event could have significant implications for the women's game.

A National Lottery handout of £1.6 million was awarded last week and will enable Redoubtables to buy and develop derelict playing fields at Plough Lane in Beddington. The new, three-tier pavilion will provide state-of-the-art sporting and recreational facilities in the first women's cricket community centre.

It has all been made possible through the efforts of Jenny Wostrak. Until recently, she was the unpaid public relations officer for the Women's Cricket Association and, at the age of 50, still plays occasionally for Redoubtables. Wostrak's job as a development officer for the London Community Cricket Association (LCCA) has enabled her to realise another

innovative project. Founded in 1984 in the wake of inner city riots, the LCCA is a charity dedicated to

keeping the capital's playing fields green and encouraging the sporting participation of disadvantaged groups.

A notable success was the formation of the Haringey Cricket College, a training and employment initiative in coaching and sports administration for the unemployed and ethnic minorities, from which several students graduated to become professional cricketers.

The LCCA is committed to helping nomadic sides find long-term homes. "There are so few grounds in London that people actually own," Wostrak said. "It is very difficult relying on local authority facilities. Women are usually at the back of the queue and green sites are under threat."

Now, with the help of the English Sports Council and local authority regeneration budgets, recreational land has at least a sporting chance of keeping at bay the hard skin grown so readily by the concrete mixers.

"I kept driving past these

acres in Beddington, thinking how ridiculous it was the site was derelict," Wostrak said. "Redoubtables needed a home, so I thought, 'How do we do this?'"

Ironically, because the owners of the land were not prepared to sell at recreational value, despite a previous planning application refusal, Wostrak's only option was to pad up with a building company.

Linden Homes proved the ideal building partner. The firm bought the five-acre site and, in return for planning consent for one acre, gave the remaining land to the LCCA, together with a £200,000 endowment to help to offset maintenance costs.

Wostrak then seized the opportunity to provide a whole range of facilities for the local community. Archery, football and hockey will all exist alongside the high-tech cricket school, which has been designed by David Morley Architects, who were recently responsible for the new in-

door school at Lord's. Work to level the ground begins next month and, when the project is complete, Redoubtables will have first right to the pitch. As a former organiser of junior cricket in Surrey, Wostrak is delighted to have secured a centre for the disaff side.

"Through the lottery and the Sports Council, it is now possible to say to traditionally chauvinistic groups that if you don't encourage the participation of women or minority groups, you won't get the money," she said. "That's quite right."

Clearly, with 90 per cent of lottery awards under £1 million and the vast majority under £100,000, that is a message being actively endorsed. "I knew it was a good application because of its implications for women," Wostrak added, "but, nonetheless, I'm thrilled. All the players at Redoubtables are very excited."

They will have to pitch their stumps elsewhere for a season or two more but, in the meantime, Wostrak might just have found a way for women cricketers to show that the grass is greener on your home turf.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kankkunen pulls clear

JUHA KANKKUNEN, of Finland, and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, driving Fords, pulled clear in the Acropolis Rally in Greece yesterday.

Kankkunen, who had started the day with a 27-second lead over the Mitsubishi of Richard Burns, of Great Britain, and Tommi Makinen, of Finland, had seen his advantage over Burns cut to 17 seconds at the end of the tenth stage, but slowly rebuilt it to 37 seconds over Sainz.

Burns was unable to match the Fords and, after a spin on the twelfth stage that cost him almost 20 seconds, was overtaken by Sainz on the final stage of the day.

□ **Powerboating:** Scott Gillman, of the United States, won the world Formula One powerboat Grand Prix of Europe in St Petersburg on Sunday. Gillman had captured pole position in the

qualifying round and led from start to finish. It was the second race in the series, the first having been won by Jonathon Jones, of Wales.

□ **Basketball:** Karl Malone scored 23 points and Utah made nine points in the final two minutes to grab a 78-73 victory over Chicago in Salt Lake City and level the best-of-seven National Basketball Association finals at 2-2.

□ **Equestrianism:** Volvo, the Swedish car manufacturer, announced yesterday that it will stop sponsoring the show jumping and dressage World Cups in April 1998.

□ **Motor racing:** Mark Blundell, of England, and Mauricio Gugelmin, of Brazil, ran out of fuel on the final lap, allowing Greg Moore, of Canada, to win the Detroit IndyCar Grand Prix.

SAILING

Golding's race lead more than doubled

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

CONFIRMATION that the BT Global Challenge is going to be won by Mike Golding on *Group 4* came late on Sunday when *Toshiba Wave Warrior* reached Boston in a time that more than doubles Golding's overall lead.

At the start of the fifth and penultimate leg from Cape Town to Boston, Walker was 22 hours adrift in second place overall.

However, he never established a position from which he could challenge Golding on this, the longest of legs, and arrived at Boston in third place for the stage but more than two days behind *Group 4* overall. Early yesterday *Toshiba* was followed in by Boris Webber's *Courtauld*

International in fourth place, a superb achievement for a crew which for most of the race has been rooted to the back of fleet. Webber's team were followed in by Chris Tibbs on *Concert* in fifth, with *Save the Children* skippered by Andy Hindley, a couple of hours later.

Hindley has slipped further behind Walker in the battle for second overall.

LATEST POSITIONS (as at 16.00 GMT yesterday): 1. Golding, 15 finished 7, 12 18 45; 2. Microvia (finished June 8, 12 18 45); 3. Toshiba Wave Warrior (finished June 8, 19 30 14); 4. Courtauld International (finished yesterday, 00 01 05); 5. Concert (finished yesterday, 07 02 27); 6. Save the Children (finished yesterday, 09 02 54); 7. Courtauld Union (3 times to 10 00 00); 8. Global Terminals (19h, 9, 11h, 12h); 9. Elcom (10h, 10h, 10h); 10. Romyndor (10h, 11h, 11h); 11. Houth Insured (11h, 12h, 12h); 12. Ocean Rover (13h, 13h, 13h); 13. 3Com (20h, 14h, 14h); 14. TMC (14h, 14h).

RUGBY UNION: BATH STAND-OFF AND CLUB COLLEAGUE REDMAN PUT TO THE TEST

Catt in swift call-up for Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN PRETORIA

MIKE CATT will make his first appearance for the British Isles tomorrow in his club position of stand-off half, yet by the end of the Lions tour there is every reason to suppose he may challenge as a full back. Catt will play against Gauteng (formerly Transvaal), last season's Currie Cup finalists, along with Nigel Redman, his club colleague and the second replacement to join the tour party from Argentina.

In what has been a fraught week for the Lions — while they have been in Pretoria three players have been lost to them through injury, a fourth

to be fit tomorrow and it is important that they should be if they are to challenge for international places.

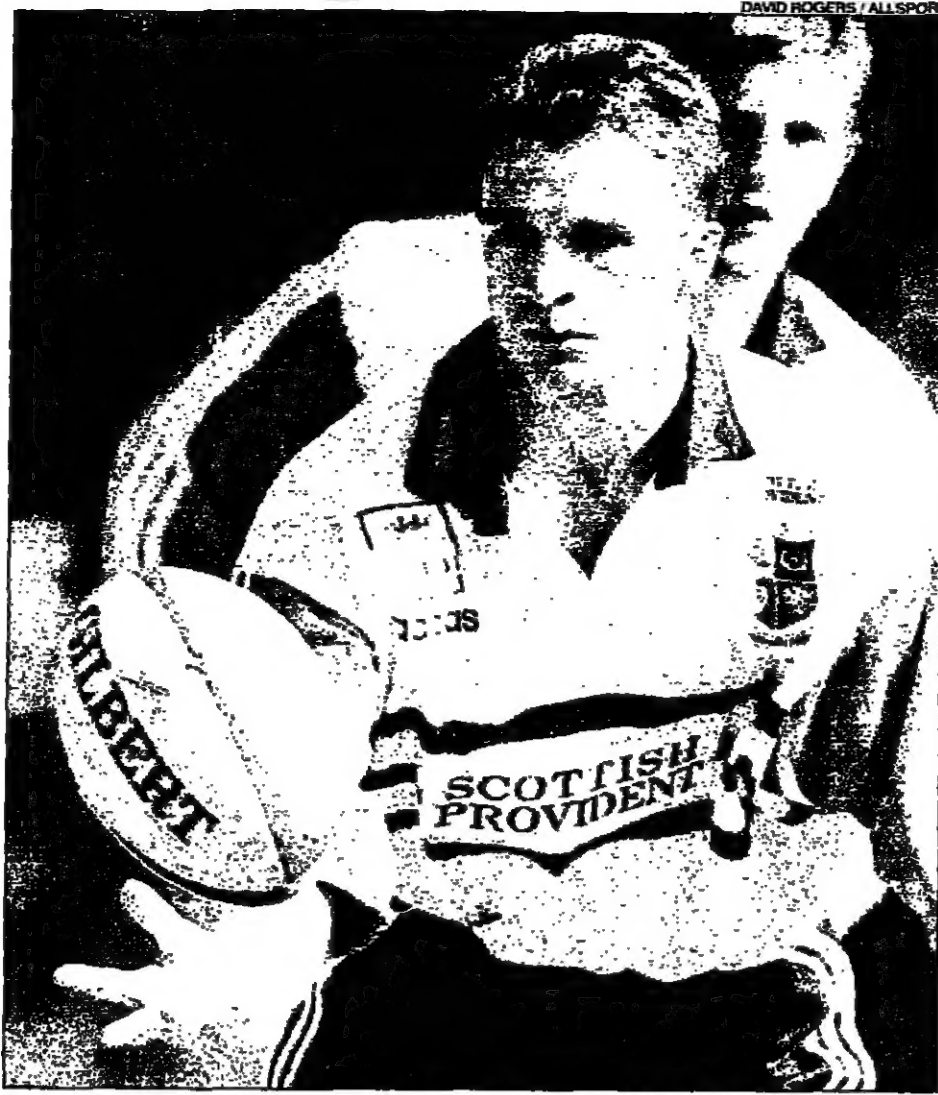
The loss of Scott Quinnell with a damaged groin must enhance the prospects of Tim Rodber, the match captain tomorrow, being the No 8 against South Africa, who play their warm-up match against Tonga in Cape Town today.

Indeed, Rodber leads ten of the side that played so well in scoring 64 points against Mpumalanga a week ago and whose skills will now be examined by much better opponents.

However, Catt, himself a replacement for Paul Grayson, displaces Neil Jenkins — who may be wondering where his tour is going — to resume the half-back partnership with Austin Healey that served England well against Wales in Cardiff last March. But if doubts remain over Tim Stimpson's quality as an international full back, the Lions must consider Catt in that role sooner rather than later, given his ability to read the game better than Stimpson.

It is hard to believe that Jenkins can play full back against South Africa on this tour and far easier to see him in his club role of stand-off. "Catt has been playing No 10 and the momentum he has built in his play deserves a run in that position," McGeechan said. Certainly, Catt has been in commanding form for Bath at home and for England in Argentina; but he is unlikely to oust Gregor Townsend for the international series and it would be intriguing were he to play full back against the Emerging Springboks in Wellington a week today.

Redman is revelling in his new role, after replacing the unfortunate Doddie Weir. "This is the icing on the cake of a long career," Redman, 32, said. "When Jack Rowell told me the Lions wanted me, I



Catt puts in some serious training with his new colleagues in the British Isles touring team in South Africa in preparation for his debut tomorrow against Gauteng

said I couldn't believe it. Jack said that he couldn't either. But playing for your country is a big thing and I still haven't lost the passion for playing for England — I would like to carry that over to playing for the Lions."

The Bath lock had a knee operation during the final month of the domestic season. It has cleared up groin and back problems and he is now running far more freely. He

played three matches in Argentina and has hurtled himself into the Lions' training programme with such intensity that he has quickly acquired the angry purple patches on his face resembling grass burns and caused by the friction of heavy scrummaging.

Tomorrow his opponents will include Kobus Wiese, who is expected to have recovered from a calf injury and whose

omission from the South African squad — three of his Gauteng colleagues, Hannes Strydom, James Dalton and Japie Mulder are away on national duty — will add extra motivation.

Gauteng will also have Roberto Grau available to prop now that Grau has returned from Buenos Aires, where he opposed Redman in the first international between Argentina and England.

Rowell left waiting for World Cup contract

The England coach is concerned about his long-term future.

Mark Souster reports

Until a week ago, Jack Rowell was in genial form in Argentina. A tour that had had damage limitation as its main term of reference had comfortably exceeded expectation.

The first international had been won in thrilling circumstances by a makeshift side that had confounded even Rowell. The possibility of a piece of history beckoned. Then Fran Cotton, the British Isles manager, came calling for Mike Catt and Nigel Redman, injuries started to mount and the series was shared rather than won. The atmosphere soured a little and Rowell's mood changed, understandably, to one of exasperation and frustration.

In this professional era, coaches are judged on results and a 2-0 victory against Argentina would have strengthened his hand considerably when negotiations begin — if they ever do — on a new contract that Rowell hopes will take him through to the 1999 World Cup.

His present agreement ends in August and, with an eye on the future, he said yesterday: "I have a great love of the game of rugby and the people in it and this tour has reinforced that. I enjoy the environment, the challenge, everything, and I have never enjoyed it as much as now. To see the team development and the game-plan through in such an exciting way, if that is not motivating, I don't know what is."

Derek Morgan, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union national playing committee, which will decide Rowell's future, said: "It is fair to say Jack would have liked to have had knowledge of any contract extension, or any change, in advance. The nature of this job is that you are always on trial. Results are very important but you have to balance that against what you are trying to achieve. Jack is aware of the process, he is not happy about it, but he understands it."

TEAM

BRITISH ISLES XV (vs Gauteng): N Beal (Northampton and England), J Bentley (Newcastle and England), A Bateman (Richmond and Wales), W Greenwood (Leicester), T Underwood (Newcastle and England), M Catt (Bath and England), A Healey (Leicester and England), T Smith (Worcestershire and Scotland), B Williams (Richmond and Wales), P Wallace (Scarlets and Ireland), R Wainwright (Worcestershire and Scotland), N Redman (Bath and England), J Davidson (London Irish and Ireland), N Back (Leicester and England), T Rodber (Northampton and England), captain.

Replacements: N Jenkins (Pontypool and Wales), J Guscott (Bath and England), M Dawson (Northampton and England), K Wood (Hartpools and Ireland), D Young (Cardiff and Wales), E Miller (Leicester and Ireland).

has been suspended and their unbeaten record fell to Northern Transvaal — they must now play in the space of four days the losers and the winners (Natal) of the Currie Cup. If nothing else, more will be known about the character of this squad by the weekend.

Nor has Ian McGeechan, the coach, been slow to emphasise the importance of the match at Ellis Park, in downtown Johannesburg, tomorrow. "A number of players have a hell of a lot to play for on Wednesday," he said after a training session from which both Allan Bateman and Rob Wainwright withdrew with hamstring and hip complaints respectively. Both are expected

RUGBY LEAGUE: WIGAN STRIKE BLOW FOR NORTHERN HEMISPHERE IN WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Robinson shows Bulldogs the best of British

Canterbury Bulldogs ... 18
Wigan Warriors ... 22

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN bridged a credibility gap in the world club championship yesterday at the Belmore Oval. For now, at least, the goading of the British game has stopped, and a tournament that was suffocating under the weight of points piled up by the southern hemisphere sides has the oxy-

gen of a British success on Australian soil.

If Chris Anderson, the Canterbury coach, really had not bothered to study their visitors on video beforehand, he did his team a disservice. Wigan were clearly underestimated, possibly because of the ease with which British sides had already been beaten. It was a dangerous assumption, given Wigan's track record against Australian opposition.

They had beaten Manly, Penrith and Brisbane respectively, in the 1987, 1991 and

1994 world club challenge matches, but this triumph was more notable for being achieved when Wigan are not at the height of their powers and when expectations were at their lowest. After an initially rocky start to the domestic season, Wigan have returned stronger, more positive and with a will to succeed that surprised Canterbury, the 1995 Australian champions.

The relief of tournament organisers was matched by that of Wigan, whose 22-0 lead was pared to four points in the

last 14 minutes as fatigue set in. As a former Canterbury player, Eric Hughes, the Wigan coach, derived particular pleasure from victory. "The British game needed that," he said. "We need competitions like this. We have to play the best players, who are in Australia, if we are to improve."

As was the case three years ago in Brisbane, a towering defensive display won the game. Only six survivors of the victorious 1994 Wigan team remained, including Mick Cassidy, who put his

body on the line more than anyone. No one in Australia needed reminding of Jason Robinson's finishing. Two tries will increase the clamour by the Australian Rugby League to tie him to the contract that he is due to start next month.

Canterbury made a mess of several early chances and the resolution of Wigan's tacking in keeping them out for more than an hour meant their recovery came too late. As Halligan converted tries by Hetherington, Timu and Ryan, nails on the Wigan bench were bitten to the quick.

Enough had been done, however. At half back, Smith and Wright were an inspired combination in splitting Canterbury open down the middle numerous times. With Silva out of position at full back, Wright saw an opportunity and Robinson latched onto his precise kick. Haughton

stretched Wigan's lead with a trademark surge up the left flank, swatting off four tacklers.

Further tries by Johnson and Robinson in the first 11 minutes of the second period ensured Wigan of their opening win in pool A, which will go a long way to giving them a quarter-final berth. The one cloud was the hamstring injury to Andy Farrell that forced him off after 50 minutes and could have serious consequences for the team, should it not heal quickly.

SCORES: Canterbury: Tries: Hetherington, Timu, Ryan, Goals: Halligan (3). Wigan: Tries: Robinson (2), Hetherington, Johnson, Goals: Farrell (2), Paul. CANTEBRURY BULLDOGS: R Silva, H E Mason, M Ryan, J Timu, G Halligan, C Pollock, M Smith, D McRae, S Price, J Hetherington, M Newton, R Bell, S Haughton, S Gilles, Substitutes: B Ward, T Norton, J Pickering, B Kato. WIGAN WARRIORS: H Paul, J Robinson, G Connolly, K Radenka, A Johnson, N Wright, A Smith, A Cowie, M Hall, L Hanson, S Haughton, M Cassidy, A Farrell, Substitutes: G Talbot, S Holgate, O Cardozo, P Kato. Referee: G Arscay (Sydney).

Swann facing ban for injury to rival

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ANTHONY SWANN, the Auckland Warriors centre, faces a probable suspension when he appears before the Rugby Football League (RFL) disciplinary panel on Thursday for allegedly putting his knee into the face of Andy Haigh in the opening world club championship match at St Helens last Friday.

Swann was ordered yesterday to go before the committee after Greg McCallum, the RFL director of referees, and the League's executive committee studied a video of the incident, in which Haigh's cheek-bone was damaged, and found that Swann had a case to answer.

A one-match ban would keep Swann, who scored two tries in the 42-12 defeat of St Helens, out of the pool A match at Bradford on Saturday and a suspension of two matches would mean he would be unavailable for Auckland's remaining games in the first series of pool matches.

Before the rot was stopped by Wigan Warriors in Sydney, Warrington Wolves became the eighth consecutive victims of the Australasian onslaught in a 40-12 defeat by Cronulla Sharks at Wilderspool on Sunday night. Although another one-sided contest, Warrington's spirit persisted. Nigel Vagana and Kelly Shelduff claimed late tries as Cronulla's concentration waned.

Three first-half tries by Russell Richardson were an indication of Cronulla's exceptional pace — the primary cause of the European sides' downfall in the first three days of competition. The crowd, too, was a disappointment. At 3,378, there were only 50 more than watched Warrington's defeat of Barrow in the Challenge Cup on the opening day of the season.

It is already embarrassingly clear that, whereas most of the European sides must feed off scraps to get among the four automatic places in the quarter-finals, a genuine competition is emerging for the four Australasian places. John Lang, the Cronulla coach, said: "The way things are going, we are going to have to win every game if we want to get into the knockout stages. Points for and against are going to be very important."

Although it seems likely that the tournament next year will be an elite competition for the top-four finishers in the respective Super Leagues, Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said it was not a vote of no-confidence in the dozen European teams. "The results do not detract from the fact that we are exposing our players to intense international competition and that they are now aware of the standards they should be aiming for," Lindsay said.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

At match-pointed pairs, it is rare to play Five of a Minor suit. Frequently there will be ten tricks in No-trumps, and so even if you make an overtrick in Five of a Minor you will still have a poor board. So this was a good sequence, from the European Pairs finals, by the British pair, Ian Panto and Malcolm Harris.

♠ J88
♥ A99
♦ A10
♣ AQ84

West
Panto
1D
2NT (1)
3D (9)
4C (5)
5C (7)

♠ 7
♥ K54
♦ K7832
♣ K1062

East
Harris
3C (6)
3H (4)
4S (5)
Pass

- (1) Showing 17-18 points.
- (2) Club support, forcing.
- (3) Diamond support.
- (4) Showing strength in hearts. It is the key bid in the auction.
- (5) If West's major suits had been the other way round, he would have bid Three No-Trumps. As it is, he can see there is a weakness in spades.
- (6) Cue-bid: give West AQx in diamonds, and Six Clubs is a supportive contract.
- (7) Lacking good playing strength, he wisely signs off.

Many pairs tables were going minus on the East-West cards. Five Clubs with an overtrick scored a near 'top'.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

FEMORALS
a. Female ferrets
b. Trousers
c. Feminist morals

GAYDIANG
a. A grass tent
b. A Burmese chieftain
c. A sort of junk

FELDSPAR
a. Prussian military exercise
b. A tent-pole
c. A crystalline mineral

GRISON
a. A Canton of Switzerland
b. A big weasel
c. Heraldic grey

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Staunton's exploits

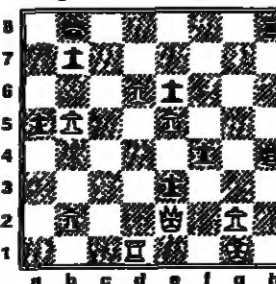
Today I continue my homage to Howard Staunton in advance of the unveiling of his long overdue headstone at Kensal Green cemetery, west London, on July 28. In 1843 Staunton took on the leading European master of his day, the Frenchman Saint Amant, in a 21-game match in Paris.

Having started as the slight underdog, Staunton went on to secure an overwhelming victory. Although official world championship matches were only instituted in 1886, many have since regarded Staunton as the unofficial world champion of his time. The following game demonstrates his breadth of strategic vision.

White: Saint Amant
Black: Staunton
Paris 1843

Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 f4 e6
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 c3 d5
5 e5 Oe8
6 Bc3 Bc7
7 Bc2 Rc8
8 O-O Nd6
9 Nc3 Be7
10 Ng2 f5
11 a3 a5
12 a4 Nf7
13 d4 h6
14 Re1 g6
15 Ne3 cxd4
16 Nxd4 Nxd4
17 cxd4 g5

Diagram of final position

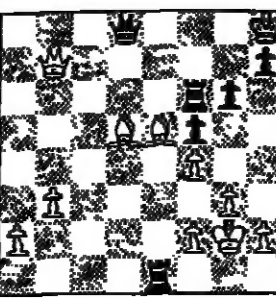


Anyone wishing to attend the unveiling ceremony should contact Barry Martin on 0181-744 2868.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Anic-Santo Roman, Montpellier 1991. White's superb bishops dominate the board and are more than a match for the black rooks. Can you spot White's swift conclusion?



Solution on page 50

COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS

The four top scorers in individual Stableford competition played on the same golf days listed below. Each company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Meas Pierson
GOLF COURSE

Date	Company name	Venue	Score
2 MAY	PIREWOOD PRINT	MILLRIDGE	144
11 MAY	ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND	CHELSEA LAKES	132
13 MAY	DOW CHEMICAL CO LTD	WELCOM HOTEL	134
15 MAY	SINGER & FRUHLANDER	CASTLETON	148
15 MAY	UPM KYMENE LIMITED	WELWYN GARDEN CITY	134
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TENNIS: RICHARDSON AND LEE BATTLE BACK TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING AT QUEEN'S CLUB

Singular success for British pair

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE light continues to shine on British sport. With the leading eight seeds savouring a day of respite, Andrew Richardson and Martin Lee, a brace of domestic tyros, took maximum advantage of the vacant stage to post stirring victories at the Stella Artois championships yesterday.

Both men had their backs to the wall after disastrous starts, but both closed out their matches to delight an unashamedly partisan crowd at Queen's Club, west London. Lee's was the bigger scalp, his 6-6, 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Andrei Olhovskiy, of Russia, coming when he seemed destined for a whitewash, but the victory of Richardson, who beat Sargis Sargisian, of Armenia, was more poignant. He now plays Tim Henman in the second round after prevailing 6-7, 6-2, 6-4.

Initially, Richardson, 23, attempted to embellish his status as a "wild card". His game lacked control as Sargisian fairly rifled into a 5-2 lead. However, Sargisian, ranked 184 places ahead of his opponent, saw evidence of a Richardson revival before taking the first set on a tie-break. The setback served to spur Richardson, whose timing and service rhythm improved noticeably as the match progressed.

"Early on I was trying to get to the net too fast," Richardson said. "I was nervous and started badly. I played better when I changed my game plan." That involved the tall left-hander forsaking the net on his second service, and he quickly reversed the flow. From 2-2 in the second set, a run of four consecutive games

brought him level, and he had opportunities to end the match long before a solitary service break in the deciding set secured the encounter with Henman.

The two are friends who regularly practised together before their careers took divergent paths, but Richardson, ranked No 253 in the world, has no qualms about trying to cut short Henman's activities here this week. "That's what friends are for," he chuckled.

Who could blame him? Richardson has endured a disappointing sequence since his spirited Davis Cup victory over Byron Black, of Zimbabwe, two months ago. "I put too much pressure on myself after that," he said. "I hadn't won in three weeks so I am pleased to have played like that in an atmosphere I am not used to." Perhaps the court-side presence of David Lloyd, Britain's Davis Cup captain, helped to raise his game.

If the atmosphere affected Richardson, then Lee, 19, had good reason to feel intimidated as Olhovskiy, Henman's master in the second round here 12 months ago, disoriented the youngster with a fusillade of clean winners. Although Lee sported the blue-and-yellow colours in which Gustavo Kuerten conquered Paris, his sartorial taste seemed hopelessly misplaced as he forfeited the first seven games.

But Lee, who headed the world junior rankings last year, rallied strongly as Olhovskiy grew ever less tolerant of his inability to dominate his opponent. The pity was that Lee's father, Brian, a



Richardson drives a powerful backhand during his victory over Sargisian yesterday

tennis coach and occupied in that capacity yesterday afternoon, was unable to witness his son's inaugural victory on the ATP Tour.

By his own admission Lee, from Sussex, has found life tough since graduating to senior level. He has performed sporadically on the lower-grade satellite circuit but this victory should do wonders for his confidence, a frail commodity in this increasingly

competitive domain. Ranked No 500 in the world, his wild-card entry was presented to him just an hour in advance of the qualifying competition.

By contrast, Mark Petchey, the British No 3, succumbed to the sliken grass-court skills of Leander Paes, of India, who was untroubled in triumphing 6-1, 6-2. There was more to celebrate, though, when Henman and Greg Rusedski came through their respective

first-round assignments in the doubles. Henman, whose world singles ranking dropped five places yesterday, to No 22, linked with Pete Sampras to beat Aleksandar Kitinov and Nuno Marques in straight sets. Rusedski teamed up with Marc-Kevin Goellner to oust Paul Kilderry and Michael Tebbutt, the Australian combination, in straight sets. Who'd be an Australian in London this week?

Cavalier Kuerten brings back the memory of lost musketeers

Rob Hughes on the refreshing style of the new French Open men's champion

THE last we saw of Gustavo Kuerten, the new laughing musketeer of Roland Garros, he was heading into Paris "to make some samba". His journey from 66th in the world tennis computer rankings to player of the moment, leaves the sport with a sense of the unexpected, an antidote to cynicism.

One is tempted to remember him among exalted company. We first saw Pelé in Gothenburg. Ali at the Rome Olympics. Olga Korbut in Munich. Maradona, as it happens, on a wet night in Glasgow, and Tiger Woods, of course, at Augusta.

But is he really heading for that company? Reality will be his test from now, starting, as he acknowledges, with Wimbledon, which was his original dream "until I learnt how difficult it is to play on grass".

He knows the challenges will be lining up to take him now, just as he, the relative unknown, overcame three French Open champions in

the past fortnight. "It was easier for me than for them," Kuerten said after his straight-sets victory over Sergi Bruguera in the final on Sunday. "They never saw me play. I watched them on television, so I knew how to play them. They did not have the same knowledge about me. But I am professional. I must play to win every match, and I know there are some beatings, some guys planning to do it for my future."

Nevertheless, what a memory, what an essence, he leaves behind. Gustavo Kuerten will not single-handedly redirect a sport away from its programmed, dollar-driven circus. He is just a reminder to those who run the business that the essence of sport always was and always should be about the individual's ability to conquer the system. We have few

enough opportunities in life to do it, so sport, as performed by this sinewy, slightly irreverent 20-year-old from the beach resort of Florianopolis has to be our escape.

It is the natural, spontaneous behaviour that appeals. Rather than command the ball boys to fetch him a towel, he wipes the racket handle on his shirt tail. Rather than slug it out from the baseline with a conditioned former champion like Bruguera, he ends an exchange of world-class ground strokes by flat-batting the ball, making it spin and dip crazily over the net skill, originality, and almost a sense that he had become impatient with orthodox quality.

What is further refreshing is that Kuerten appears not to be alone in striking out against the established order. The male champion of Roland Garros is Brazilian, the female, Iva Majoli, is Croatian. And if what was happening on the other courts is any guide to the future, tennis is again becoming a lingua franca of global interest. The girls' champion is Justine Henin, 15, from Belgium, and in the final she beat Cara Black, from Zimbabwe. Miss Black had a partner from Kazakhstan in winning the

girls' doubles final; the mixed doubles champions came from Japan and India, the men's doubles from Russia and the Czech Republic, and the boys' doubles champions were from Venezuela and Peru.

How ready we are to turn over new leaves in sport, to turn away from the deposed champions. How swiftly the laughter of Kuerten and the fresh fragrance of Majoli helped us forget the person at Roland Garros who has given as much as anyone in recent times to that tournament, and who seemed to take defeat the hardest.

Steffi Graf, struggling after a knee injury and perhaps more likely to be in her athletic prime on grass, had tried to rationalise her life and times as she approaches the grand old age of 28. "I have a different outlook," she told us. "In the beginning, pretty much everything centred around it, the tennis. You know, your outlook on life is very different after being around for a long time. Maybe the importance of it has now decreased quite a bit."

Who does she think she is fooling? When Steffi was eliminated, she seemed to lose more than a tennis match, she portrayed a sense of loss.

For what she has given, grace under pressure, I shall unashamedly root for Graf at Wimbledon. But who will forget, or forgo the chance to see how Kuerten acclimatises? In Paris his gift was matched by a champion's spirit. He came not with the insolent self-belief of the Chilean, Marcelo Rios, not with the fragile physical stamina of Hicham Arazi, who gave us a magic hour or two, but prepared to run, to work for five sets, three hours. Beyond that, he brought back the feeling of the lost musketeers, the sensation that here was a player having a good time on court.



Kuerten: surprise package

Neiland given fright by Italian

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LARISA NEILAND, of Latvia, suffered a fright before becoming the first seeded player through to the second round of the DFS Classic women's grass-court tournament at Edgbaston yesterday.

The event's No 16 seed lost the first set 7-5 to Rita Grande, of Italy, but took the next two sets 6-1, 6-2 to seal victory.

Tamarine Tanasugarn, of Thailand, the No 13 seed, won 6-3, 7-5 against Meilen Tu, of the United States. The tournament's top eight seeds all received byes into the second round.

Last year's runner-up, Nathalie Tauziat, the No 2 seed, from France, will play Kristina Brandi, of the United States, who beat Miho Saeki, of Japan, 6-3, 7-6.

Monica Seles has made a late entry into the Direct Line Championships which begin at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, next Tuesday. Seles won the Eastbourne title last year and is keen to have more grass-court practice before Wimbledon — the only grand-slam event that she has not won — begins on June 23.

Seles, beaten by Martina Hingis in the semi-finals of the French Open last week, made an outstanding debut at Eastbourne last year when she did not drop a set and overwhelmed her fellow American, Mary Joe Fernandez, 6-0, 6-2, in the final.

She joins the new French Open champion, Iva Majoli, of Croatia, two former Wimbledon finalists, Jana Novotna, of the Czech Republic, and Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, of Spain, and the latest American teenage prodigy, Venus Williams, in one of the event's strongest ever fields.

Steffi Graf has also indicated that she will compete, though she has not yet confirmed her entry.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Cracking the Highway Code

Driving School BBC1, 8.00pm

Here is one of those ideas that seems so obvious you wonder it has not been thought of before. The series is based on the simple but productive formula of following learner drivers through their lessons and tests. You can be sure that in none of the cases will the licence be easily earned. Take Maureen, who has failed the test six times and spent £5,000 on lessons. As she narrowly avoids hitting another vehicle, setting off a furious altercation with her husband in the front passenger seat, her ambition looks as far away as ever. We also meet Joan, on her third test and hoping to pass so that she can take her grandchild to the park. The joke is that they may get a licence before she does. For 17-year-old Danny the stimulus is the prospect of driving to see his girlfriend, who inconveniently lives 200 miles away.

Class ITV, 9.00pm

You may not know September Films by name but they are the people behind such series as *Mistresses* and *Hollywood Lovers*. Their latest venture is in the same mode, a compilation of smoothly-edited soundbites delivered by a raft of celebrity faces. The result is candy-floss television, slipping down easily but not offering much by way of substance. Anybody wanting a profound and challenging appraisal of the British class system will have to look elsewhere. We start with the upper class, seen as soon as to sex, with Michael Winner (how does he know?) declaring that "the aristocracy has always had an unbridled sex life". The main enjoyment comes from guessing who will come up on the screen next. It is quite a film which includes among its cast not only Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Ian Dury, but also Queensbury and that lovable old villain, "Mad" Frankie Fraser.

Trouble With Boys BBC2, 11.15pm

We hear much about children who are out of control and this series features one of them. Paul is 12. He is aggressive and dishonest and screams if he does not get his way. He has been expelled from



Joan gets behind the wheel (BBC1, 8.00pm)

school, arrested for shoplifting and stolen £600 from his own mother. The puzzle is why. It seems that you can rule out social deprivation. His father is in work, his mother is at home full time and his older sister has never been in trouble. Perhaps his parents are a bit too easy on him, but that is difficult to judge. His mother thinks there must be a medical problem. Enter Dr Don Gordon, a psychologist and delinquency expert from University of Ohio. He says he knows what the source of the difficulty is and hopes to be able to sort it out. Tomorrow's programme reveals his success.

Picture House BBC2, 11.45pm

The Canadian Atom Egoyan, who won the grand jury prize at Cannes for *The Sweet Hereafter*, launches a series of evocative short films made by cinema directors and inspired by favourite paintings. Egoyan's film features his baby son, named Arshile after the painter Arshile Gorky with whom Egoyan shares Armenian roots. Gorky's *A Portrait of the Artist with his Mother* is the peg for a touching exploration of a mother's relationship. In the other film showing tonight, the Australian director Ann Turner recalls childhood holidays at the seaside when the family would hire a beach hut. But her images, linked to the painting *Bathing Boxes* by her compatriot Jeffrey Smart, also present a more adult and erotic aspect of sun-drenched summers. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Why Do We Care? Radio 2, 9.30pm

There are seven million people in Britain who qualify for the description "carer", in that they look after someone who is ill and they do it for nothing. They occasionally make the news, but a measure of their general invisibility is the fact that, in order to raise their profile, this week has been designated National Carers' Week. Valerie Singleton presents this documentary, which is in some ways most impressive for the fact that carers ask for so little (and get even less). Anne Skinner, for example, has three children, two of whom have disabilities. Like most carers, all she really wants is some recognition and a break every so often: "I would like to be able to say to a carer's centre, 'I'm so down today I'd just like to sleep for the weekend.'"

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kavan Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 8.30 Session 8.45 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Claire Sturgess 1.00am Chris Jordan 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Alan Freeman: The Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 Scott Joplin: King of Ragtime 9.30 Why Do We Care? See Choice 10.30 Richard Allison 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Adrian Fingham

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.20 The Tuesday Match 7.40 commentary from Lens where England face world champions Brazil in the four-nation Tournoi de France 9.30 The 21st Century and How to Survive It 10.00am Diamond and Fi Glover look at how technology will affect our lives 10.00am News 10.30am After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

8.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy West 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00am Radio 2 1.00am Tommy Boyd 4.00am Peter Dingley 7.00 Ann Raelum 10.00 James White 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Schumann (Faschingsschwank aus Wien); Rodrigo (Cinco Pezas Ininterrumpidas); Puccini (Crisantemo). 9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Brahms, opus 102, No 1; Chopin, opus 10, No 1; Debussy, opus 15, No 1; Debussy, opus 15, No 2; Debussy, opus 15, No 3; Debussy, opus 15, No 4; Debussy, opus 15, No 5; Debussy, opus 15, No 6; Debussy, opus 15, No 7; Debussy, opus 15, No 8; Debussy, opus 15, No 9; Debussy, opus 15, No 10; Debussy, opus 15, No 11; Debussy, opus 15, No 12; Debussy, opus 15, No 13; Debussy, opus 15, No 14; Debussy, opus 15, No 15; Debussy, opus 15, No 16; Debussy, opus 15, No 17; Debussy, opus 15, No 18; Debussy, opus 15, No 19; Debussy, opus 15, No 20; Debussy, opus 15, No 21; Debussy, opus 15, No 22; Debussy, opus 15, No 23; Debussy, opus 15, No 24; Debussy, opus 15, No 25; Debussy, opus 15, No 26; Debussy, opus 15, No 27; Debussy, opus 15, No 28; Debussy, opus 15, No 29; Debussy, opus 15, No 30; Debussy, opus 15, No 31; Debussy, opus 15, No 32; Debussy, opus 15, No 33; Debussy, opus 15, No 34; Debussy, opus 15, No 35; Debussy, opus 15, No 36; Debussy, opus 15, No 37; Debussy, opus 15, No 38; Debussy, opus 15, No 39; 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